

DC Gazette

VOL VIII NR 10

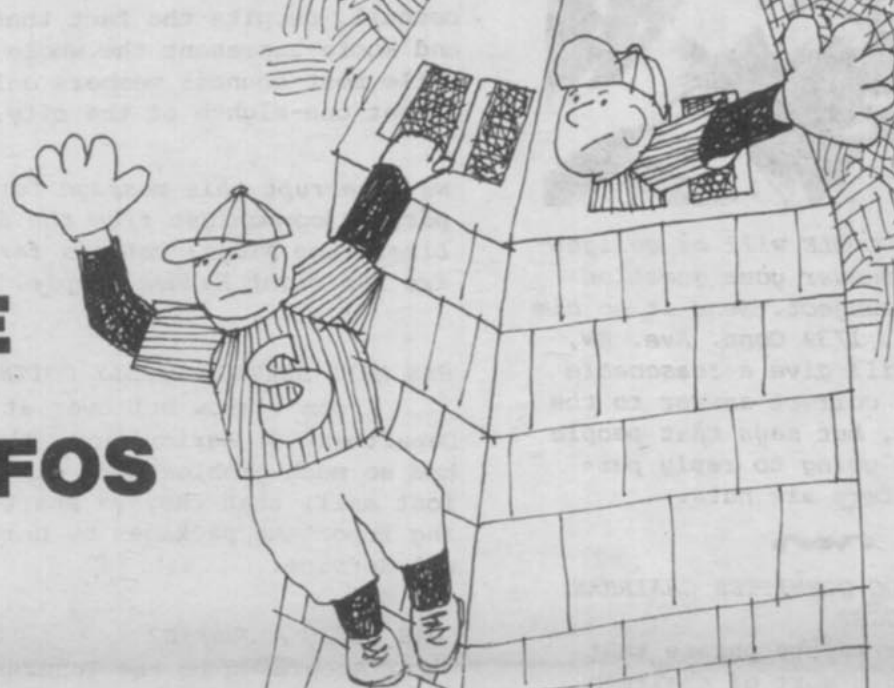
DECEMBER 1977

25¢ AT NEWSSTANDS
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How to bring baseball back to DC

DIET AND CRIME

THE ODDS ON UFOS



**LETTERS FROM
THE JET STREAM**

SWAMPOODLE TELLS ALL

THE SWAMPOODLE REPORT



JOSIAH X. SWAMPOODLE will be delighted (above) to answer your question on almost any subject. Send it to him at the Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009. He will give a reasonable facsimile of a correct answer to the best questions, but says that people who think he's going to reply personally to letters are nuts.



WHAT SORT OF DC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IS CHARLES DIGGS?

The proper way to phrase that question is what sort of chairman was he. My sources tell me he will resign soon to avoid a certain unpleasantness.

DOES ANYONE WEAR A GIRDLE ANYMORE?

According to Maidenform, women over 50 are still into heavy control girdles, those 30 to 50 continue to buy light weight girdles, but says one top Maidenformer, "Women under 30 act as if they never heard the word." Maidenform estimates that girdle use has dropped 50% over the last eight years.

HAS HILDA MASON KEPT JULIUS HOBSON'S STAFF?

What she could. Sterling Tucker refused to give her the education committee chair on the grounds that committee posts should go to those members of the majority party and to those with most seniority. No mention of qualifications. So Hilda's staff was reduced to two. Dave Smith is still with the education committee, now under William Spaulding, and Pat Minor is working on the budget committee. Along with Doug Moore, Mason has the smallest staff on the council, despite the fact that she and Moore represent the whole city while most council members only represent one-eighth of the city.

We interrupt this message for an important communique from the Sinister Liberation Front: Metro's fare gates are for right handed people.

HAS MAIL SERVICE REALLY GOTTEN WORSE?

I don't know but over at the US Department of Agriculture, they've had so much problem with damaged and lost mail, that they've started sending important packages by United Parcel Service.

WAS ELVIS A JUNKIE?

According to the Tennessee medical examiner, "All the medications present (in his body) had been prescribed by his doctors. There was an extensive search for illicit drugs and they were not found to be present." To keep the drug business in perspective, it's interesting to note the list of the ten worst drugs in the country as scored by the federal Drug Abuse Warning Network. They are, in order: Valium; alcohol in combination with other dangerous drugs; heroin and other morphine derivatives; aspirin; Flurazepam; Darvon; Librium; Elavil; phenobarbital; and secobarbital.

WHAT'S THE MOST DANGEROUS SPORT IN AMERICA?

Skateboarding. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 375,000 people will be injured this year in skateboard accidents, five thousand more than will be hurt in amateur, high school, college and backyard football put together.

THE WASHINGTON POST RECENTLY GAVE A LOT OF SPACE TO CHIEF CULLINANE'S ATTACK ON MARION BARRY FOR HIS CRITICISM OF THE POLICE FORCE. WAS THE CHIEF CORRECT?

You might have understood the affair better if the Post had let its readers in on what Barry said first. Some of the points Barry made were that two of the four assistant chiefs and nine of the deputy chiefs are white males, 72% of the inspectors, 90% of the captains, and 82% of the lieutenants are white males. There is only one woman above the rank of sergeant. About three-quarters of all civilian personnel GS-9 and above are white males. Further, less than 10% of the 258 officers, lieutenants and above, live in DC. Who had the story? Who got the press?

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT BIG LOCAL SCANDAL THE GAZETTE WROTE ABOUT A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO?

Everyone allegedly involved denies there's anything to it; everyone not involved who knows about it claims there it's true. Be patient and meanwhile take down these notes: \$32,000; Caribbean diplomat; key witness fled the country; grand jury investigation.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WHO ARE COLLECTING UNEMPLOYMENT WHILE IN PUBLIC OFFICE?

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ANITA BRYANT SAID SHE WAS COMING TO WASHINGTON. WHERE IS SHE?

Probably thought better of it. If she hasn't, she ought to read the resolution passed recently by the Downtown Cluster of Congregations, which includes three Baptist, two Methodist, an A.M.E., Chinese and various other Protestant churches, plus St. Matthews Cathedral and Temple Micah. The resolution stated that the congregations "assert that all persons are entitled to full civil liberties and to full and equal protection under the law. Accordingly, we do hereby declare our support for Title 34 and for all similar legislation at all levels of government to insure the full civil rights of all people."

I KNOW YOU GUYS ARE FOR STATEHOOD, BUT HOW DO YOU GET AROUND THE FACT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OWNS SO MUCH LAND IN DC?

The same way that Alaska, Ne-



BETH POLLACK/Against the Grain



IS IT SAFE FOR MY CHILD TO KISS OUR DOG?

According to Dr. George Miller of the Stanford Medical School, it's a lot safer than kissing you. Puppies, says Dr. Miller, give colds to other puppies; humans give colds to other humans.

vada, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, Wyoming, California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana and Washington state do. A higher percentage of land in each of these states is owned by the federal government than is the case in DC. DC's penultimate predecessor (that's a fancy phrase I picked up from S. Dillon Ripley) in the march towards statehood, Alaska, is 90% owned by the feds.

I DON'T LIKE YOUR ANTI-METRO STANCE. DOESN'T METRO SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS?

It would save energy if many more people rode it than at present, but energy costs is another matter. According to Roger W. Sant, director of the Energy Conservation Policy Center of the Carnegie-Mellon Institute of Research, oil would have to rise to 24 times its present cost

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2. If the odor is very strong and you are indoors, open windows and doors to ventilate. Go outside. Call us from a neighbor's house.

3. Do not turn any electrical switches on or off.

4. Do not light matches, smoke cigarettes or create any source of combustion.

However slim the chance of danger, it doesn't pay to take needless risks. At the first sniff of gas, play it safe.

Washington Gas

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

77-4

DC GAZETTE

THE DC GAZETTE is published monthly except during the summer when it is published bimonthly. Our deadline is the second Tuesday of the month except for ads, which should be submitted by the third Tuesday of the month. The Gazette is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate and uses the services of Liberation News Service, Pacific News Service, College Press Service, HerSay News Service, and Community Press Features. The Gazette is available by mail for \$5 a year. Single copies are 50¢ if mailed and 25¢ at selected newsstands.

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ARCHITECTURAL CRITIC: JOHN WIEB-
ENSON

DC GAZETTE
1739 CONNECTICUT AVE. NW (#2)
DUPONT CIRCLE, DC 20009

232-5544

to make Metro competitive. The Congressional Budget Office recently released a study that said that buses were the most energy-efficient form of mass transit.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF JOHN HECHINGER'S IDEA TO BUILD A CONVENTION CENTER IN NEAR NORTHEAST?

There's no subway stop there and the corner near the site is one of the most dangerous in the city. If Mr. Hechinger really wanted to save us money he'd suggest the Stadium-Armory site, where public land is available, along with parking and a subway stop. Lots of people have good ideas for convention centers. Arthur Cotton Moore wants to cover the stadium over with a floating roof; Harry Montague has a nifty design for a center using a Guggenheim-type structure with a heliocentric ramp and John Wiebenson wants it combined with shopping. I say do it all:

an enormous A.C. Moore blimp floating above the stadium, with a Montague ramp leading up it, Wiebenson human-scale shops underneath anchored at one end by the largest Hechinger's in the world.

WILL DOUG MOORE REALLY BE THE NEXT CHAIR OF THE CITY COUNCIL?

Not if the Washington Post has its way. The Post, which manages to bury most major city stories on the back pages, played Moore's status as front runner on page one in order to encourage others to get into the race.



And now a roundup of the month's most astounding facts:

ASTOUNDING POLITICAL FACTS: Sterling Tucker told a rally the other day that the Redskins are what Washington is all about.

ASTOUNDING CRIME FACTS: Half of

the engraving machines given to the New York City police by the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration have been stolen.

ASTOUNDING GROCERY FACTS: The most frequently purchased item in the nation's grocery stores is toilet paper.

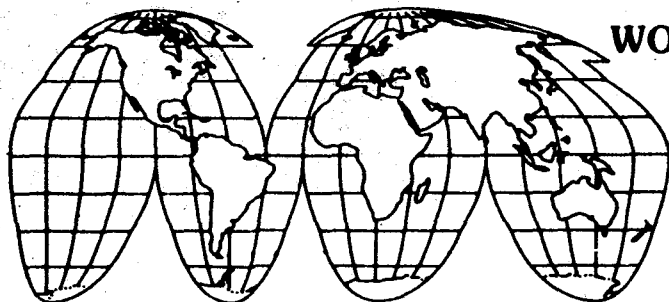
ASTOUNDING FACTS ABOUT THE WILD WEST: The Colorado Bureau of Investigation sent this message over the teletype: "Fortunately, the message we asked you to disregard was not sent. Thus, we ask that you disregard the message we sent asking you to disregard the last message."

That's it, folks. Remember: if you feel run down with that tired sense of deja vu, you're not sick, you've just been watching too much Channel 26.

Josiah X. Swampoodle

Purveyor of split infinitives for more than forty years

MEN



WOMEN

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- COMPANIES and GOVERNMENT AGENCIES employing personnel in nearly every occupation, from the semi-skilled laborer to the College trained professional.
- How and Where to apply for OVERSEAS GOVERNMENT JOBS!
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- Directory of U.S. Businesses operating in AUSTRALIA that employ Americans.
- List of U.S. DEFENSE CONTRACTORS with operations OVERSEAS THAT EMPLOY Americans!
- Information about TEMPORARY and SUMMER JOBS OVERSEAS!
- You will also be told How to write your resume or application letter! How to plan your job hunting campaign! How to conduct yourself in a job interview! Plus many professional tips that may mean the difference between landing the job of your choice or missing out.

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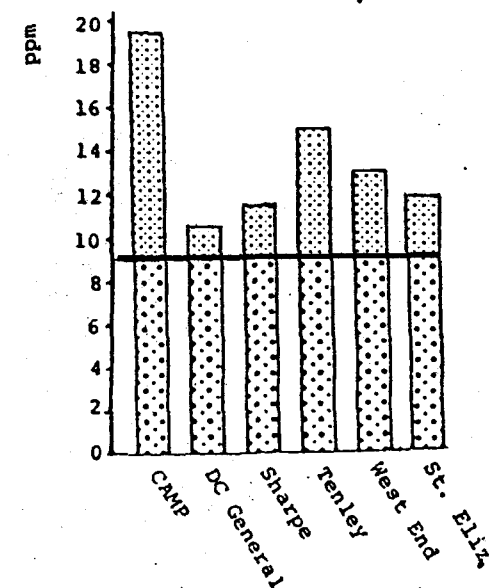
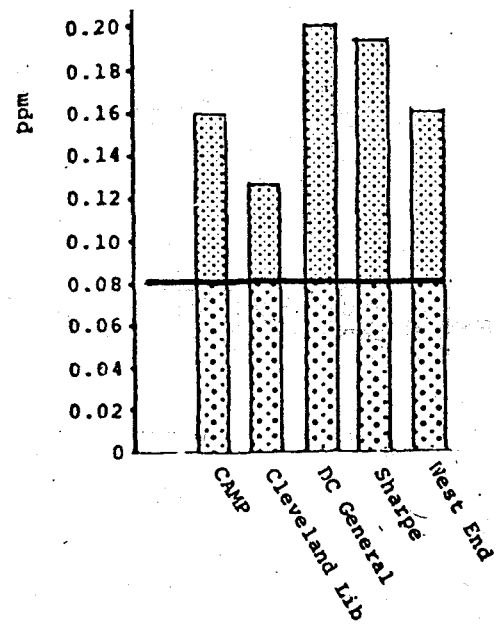
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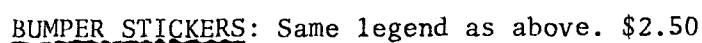
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A cough in every carload

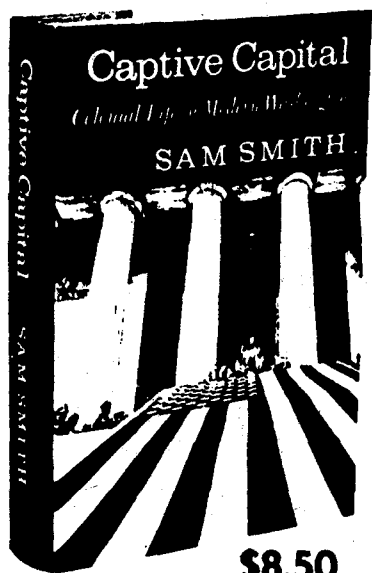
The talk is about lead now, but keep in mind these cheery charts that show how DC in 1976 violated national air pollution standards for photochemical oxidants (top) and carbon monoxide (bottom). The line crossing the results from the DC testing stations represents the national standard.



WASHINGTON CONSUMER
CHIEF COOK HEALS A variety
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MATERIALS FOR THE STUDY OF WASHINGTON. This annotated bibliography of books and materials about the city is the most valuable thing of its kind to come along. Compiled by Perry Fisher. \$2.50

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Captive Capital

*Colonial Life
in Modern Washington*

Here's what people have been saying about Gazette editor Sam Smith's book about local Washington:

Could be an excellent gift for any friend just moving to town. Or any friend who has managed to live here for sometime without learning anything about Washington. . . . Sam Smith's is one of the few efforts I have seen that manages to deal with black people and white people without insulting either." — WILLIAM RASPBERRY, WASHINGTON POST

It is absolutely 'must' reading for all who are interested in this city's history, its political or private life — JAMES TINNEY, WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

Smith's book is a joy to read — ROBERT CASSIDY, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

METROPOLITAN AREA TENNIS AND GOLF GUIDE, 1977 EDITION Ellen Lux, editor

Whether you are a die-hard sports fan or you need to exercise to take off excess tonage, the 1977 MATGG has all you need to know on activities and facilities. In addition to golf and tennis, there is also info on racquetball, ice skating, bicycling, basketball, etc. There are also feature articles on the Bullets, Caps, Redskins, Forest Hills, the Masters Tournament, and much more.

141 pages, 6 x 9, \$2.00 perfectb'nd

CAPITAL FEASTS: The Menu Guide to Washington Area Restaurants Janet Staihar and Richard Barnes

1977 guide to the menus of the top restaurants in the area. With notes on open hours, decor, house specials and other features.

128 pages, 8 x 8½, \$4.50 perfectb'nd

COUNTRY INNS, by Lewis Perdue. More than 70 rustic spots in nearby Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia are evaluated for food, ambience, lodging availability, and service. Includes historic background along with details on where to call and how to get there. 192 pages, \$4.95.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL GUIDE. Over 200 independent schools in the area described; including tuition information, curriculum, requirements. \$3.95

WASHINGTON IN FLASHMAPS. 46 useful maps in a convenient paperback. Good for your tourist friends. \$1.95

GOING PLACES WITH CHILDREN. Green Acres School's popular guide to planning successful trips in the area with children. \$2.50

GHOSTS: WASHINGTON'S MOST FAMOUS GHOST STORIES. Long before Watergate there were strange things happening in Washington. The sinister spectre of Francis Scott Key, the ghosts of the Pension Building and lots more. Plenty of old photos. \$3.95

TOUCHING DC: A fine photo-book about Washington for children. \$4.20

WASHINGTON STAR GARDEN BOOK. A long time local classic. Lots of information keyed to local conditions. \$3.95

SUCCESSFUL GARDENING IN THE GREATER WASHINGTON AREA. We're not into gardening but we're told that this book is an excellent companion book to the Star guide. Prepared by the Men's Gardening Club of Montgomery County. \$2.00

WALKING TOURS OF WASHINGTON. We think this is one of the best of the walking guides and it only costs \$1.50.

THE OUTDOOR SCULPTURE OF WASHINGTON DC: This Smithsonian Press book tells you all about the sculpture of DC with over 400 illustrations. \$8.95

ZOO BOOK: The cover photo of a Bengal tiger resting at the edge of a pond provides a striking welcome to this photo-filled book on what's in the National Zoo and how it's cared for. \$5.00

GREATER WASHINGTON AREA BICYCLE ATLAS: This guide is now in its second edition and is a must for anyone who likes to take bike trips in the area. \$3.50

ALONG THE CANAL

CANAL BOAT CHILDREN: A nicely illustrated paperback describing the life of children who worked and lived on the C&O and other canals. \$3.

LIFE ON THE C&O CANAL: An illustrated, first person account of life on the C&O Canal in 1859. \$2.50

TOWPATH GUIDE TO THE C&O CANAL: Georgetown to Seneca. \$3.

C&O CANAL OLD PICTURE ALBUM: \$4.95

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The Whole Washington Handbook

Where to Go and What to Know
in the Metropolitan Area



MARION EIN AND ALICE SHABECOFF

Living in a large city like Washington isn't easy, but this comprehensive index can sure make it easier. Its entries range from recreational programs and activities through services and agencies. Each entry lists the agency name, address, phone number, and description of its service. Whether you live in Washington or are just passing through, this is an indispensable guide to the pleasures and opportunities of living in the nation's capital.

350 pages, 5½ x 8½, \$4.50 perfectb'nd

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

How to Become a Preg Watcher

One of the city's more elite security forces is the National Zoo's Preg Watch, formed of volunteers who sit by zoo animals as they near giving birth. The Friends of the National Zoo lists these qualifications: "A willingness to keep alert late at night or in the predawn often with nothing to watch but a sleeping animal, cockroaches and mice. . . Reliability; finding substitutes at the last minute is next to impossible. . . Self discipline; keeping out of the way if birth should occur." The Preg Watchers are put on three to four hour shifts and you can find out more by calling 232-7703.

Cawley, Schmidt & Sharrow

They sound like a pretty stuffy firm, but actually they are the first legal clinic set up in the East for middle-income persons. They handle small claims, traffic tickets, home purchases, divorces, simple wills and bankruptcy. The Washington office is at 1522 Conn. Ave. NW (387-5900). The clinic was called to our attention by a reader who writes: "I used the clinic and I couldn't believe the interest they took in my case, and I was shocked when I was told my visit was absolutely free. With free (initial consultation) and fees so low, they are truly lawyers the middle income person can afford. I also like that they are open at nights and on weekends and that you can pay by credit cards."

Neighbors Inc. Arts & Crafts Show

Dec 9-10 at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, Alaska Ave. & Kalmia Rd. NW. Chili for supper on Friday.

Fix Your Own Drips

Cooperative Extension Service offers free workshops on home repairs. Several locations. Info: 282-7410

As close as your phone

Tele-Friend is a service of Iona House and provides a daily phone call to any elderly or handicapped person who lives alone in the community. If you know of someone who could use this service, call 966-1055.



SONGS OF CHANGE

JEANNE MACKEY AND PENNY ROSENWASSER join Lucha and Luci Murphy for an evening of music, dance, mime and photography, Dec. 10, 730 pm, at the First Congregational Church, 10th & G NW. Child-care, signing for the deaf. \$3.50 at the door.

Rehab For Heart Attack Victims

The Post Coronary Group Counseling and Exercise Therapy Study of George Washington University's medical center is looking for people who have suffered heart attacks for a study of heart attack rehabilitation. For information on the exercise and therapy program call 676-3107 or 676-3110.

Kids as Architects

An exhibit of children's architectural drawings opens at the Renwick Dec 16. Included are plans for an "Energy House," a "Snug-a-Bug House," and a "Kids Only Town."

How the Elizabethans Did It

Giles Dawson, professor emeritus of Catholic University will lecture on "Elizabethan Marriage in Fiction and in Fact" at 8 pm on Dec 12 at the Folger Library. It's free.

Vegetarian Society of DC

Info: PO Box 4328, DC 20012

Women in DC

A 26-page pamphlet available for \$2.25 from the DC International Women's Year Coordinating Committee, 724-5581.

African Holiday

During the holidays, the African Museum of Art (316 A NE, 547-7424) is offering African storytelling (11am, Dec. 26-30); Kwanza Celebration (2pm, Dec 26-Jan 1; bring fruit to share) as well as a Christmas boutique open now.

DC and World War I

German non-citizens were banned from the city, vigilantes groups were formed to root out disloyalty and the local police were swamped with reports of suspicious persons. With the passage of the Espionage and Sedition Acts, limiting press, speech and assembly, civil liberties took a fall.

The story is told in a newly opened exhibit, "War Against Freedom, Civil Liberties in Washington DC During the First World War," at the Woodrow Wilson House, 2340 S NW. Open 10-2 weekdays and noon-4 weekends. \$1.50/adults; 50¢/students and seniors.

DC's Troubled Civil Rights Law

The local chapter of the National Lawyers Guild has come up with a couple of publications dealing with the city's civil rights law: Title 34, one an evaluation and one a guide. The local NLG says that the Office of Human Rights discourages complainants, refuses to accept valid complaints, drags out investigations which then turn out to be incomplete and poorly documented and sometimes forces complainant to accept a settlement or have the case dismissed. For info, call the NLG at 547-0880.

The Free Clinic Lives

The Washington Free Clinic has gotten another lease on life, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Meyer Foundation for the clinic's women's health program. Started back in the sixties, the clinic has served over 78,000 people with low-cost and free medical care. It's located in the Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW.



Susanne Anderson

COUNTRY is a new magazine designed for all those people who like to get out of DC on a weekend. An attractive publication that covers the scene from Rehoboth to Rappahannock, *Country* is offering charter subs at \$10. Write PO Box 100, Amissville, Va. 22002.



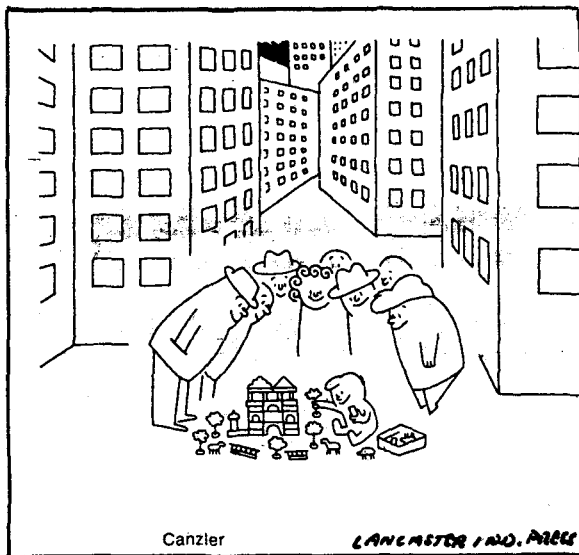
IN THE WAKE OF OUR SERIES on walking in the city, we actually have turned up some good news. The Department of Transportation is planning to do a pedestrian survey of the city in order to identify problem locations and figure out where capital improvements might be planned. ANCs and civic organizations will probably be queried. And the city's pedestrian coordinator, J. W. Lanum, says he would be glad to receive suggestions for pedestrian improvements at his office (908 Muncie Building, 1329 E NW, DC 20004). We have also learned that DOT and the police have gotten their heads together on another problem we raised: the failure of the cops to make drivers respect pedestrian rights. It turns out that under the old regulations, drivers who failed to yield to pedestrians got five traffic points, which the police thought was excessive and so were reluctant to press. Ironically, if you hit a pedestrian you only got three points.

The points for failure to yield have now been reduced to two, and the police have indicated to DOT that they will start enforcing the law against drivers instead of picking on pedestrians so much.

METROTICKS: "Down the Tube: Washington's Metro has Become a Mass Transit Disaster." No, not a headline from the Gazette, but from Barron's the financial weekly. . . . A study presented at a recent meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers reported that San Francisco's BART largely benefits the middle-class and said that if BART had never been built the same job could have been done by 19 additional buses and \$13 million.

THE DANGERS OF AN uninformed electorate were well illustrated in the recent school board race in which

Stewart Rosenblatt of the US Labor Party, that well-financed organization of bizarre behavior and exotic politics, won 19% of the citywide vote and a startling 25% in Ward III. In Ward III's precincts 10 and 34 he actually got 32% of the vote. Protest votes are fine, folks, but Barbara Simmons really isn't that bad. . . . ALAIRE RIEFFEL won handily in crazy-quilt Ward II, losing only 5 precincts in the eastern part of the ward (1, 18, 21, 83, 131). She got over 80% of the vote in precincts 2, 3, 14, and 15 — all west of 16th Street. . . . CAROL SCHWARTZ ran over 70% all through Ward III except for precinct 29 (which votes at Sidwell Friends) where she got 67%. . . . Both initiative & referendum and the recall proposals were approved in every precinct in the city. Precinct 76 (in Upper Northeast above Galludet College) gave initiative and referendum 100% of its votes.



THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON Planning & Housing Association has proposed that developers of new residential construction set aside a percentage of those new units for low and moderate income residents. The group urged the zoning commission to start such a program. . . . ANOTHER VICTIM of budgetary cuts is the DC Youth Chorale, which re-

ported last month that it could only last through the end of the year with its present funds. You can help them out by sending a donation to the DC Youth Chorale, Ellington School of the Arts, 35th & R, NW, DC 20007.

HERE'S HOW THE GAY ACTIVIST Alliance rates the various candidates who won in last month's school board race (a score of 10 means a perfect response to the GAA questionnaire): Frank Shaffer-Corona (9), Barbara Simmons (8), Alaire Rieffel (9), Carol Schwartz (2), Victoria Street (2) and Calvin Lockridge (5).

DID YOU KNOW THAT JOHN RISHER, the city's chief lawyer, writes chummy things to his staff like this: "I have listed hereinafter certain new office committees which I hereby establish?" . . . That he tried to create a mandatory after-hours training program for assistant corporation counsels, which was stopped when someone read the civil service regs? . . . That he's using a computer to keep track of what his lawyers are doing with their time and which agency they're doing it for and that the forms take more time to fill out than an extra martini at lunch? . . . That back when Joe Yeldell and the mayor were standing eyeball to eyeball, Risher had his top aides scouring their files for dirt on Big Joe?

IF YOU want to understand DC politics you have to understand the language. For example, there was that sentence the other day in a story by Post city hall reporter Milton Coleman:

For weeks, party leaders and Tucker supporters. . . have been placing increasing pressure on Barry to abandon his plan to challenge Tucker for mayor and thereby head off a devastating split in the Democratic Party's ranks.

Since political parties have managed to survive primary contests for nearly two centuries in this country without being devastated, this sentence is obviously in code. What it apparently means is that if Barry runs, party leaders, Tucker supporters and the Washington Post will be devastated. On the other hand, it

Where the school salaries go

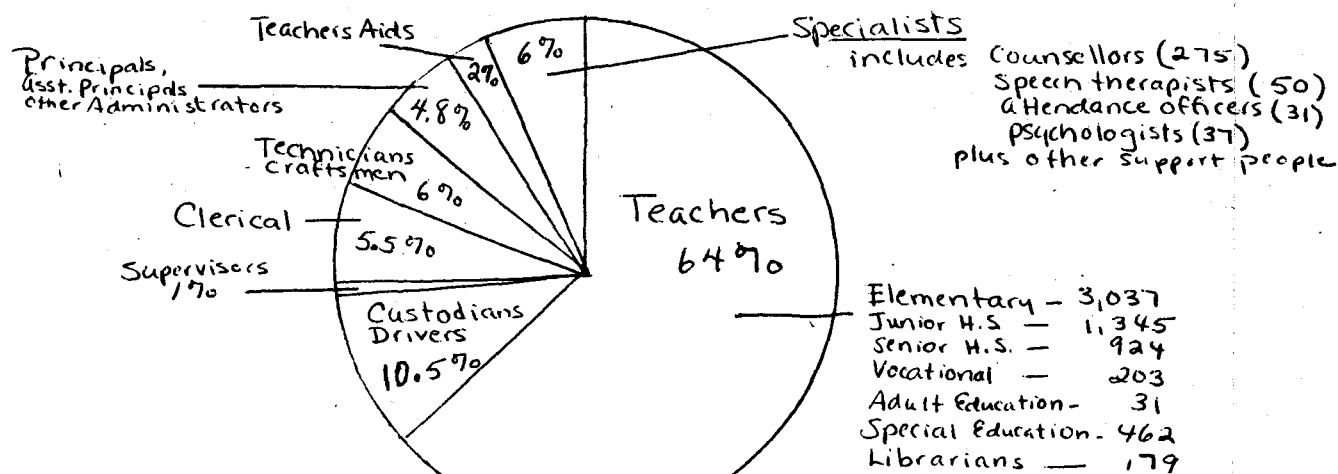


Chart by Betty Ann Kane, SB Member At Large

Eighty-eight percent of the schools' budget goes for salary and here is how it is divided up. One problem is that, with reductions in staff, the remaining teachers are older with more experience and degrees, and hence higher salaries. In 1970, for example, only 25% of grade 15 teachers had more than a BA. Today the figure is 54%. The median age of these teachers is 38.

The Gazette used to run a tally of key votes at the city council but we gave up the practice because so many bills were being passed unanimously after being compromised to the point that the views of the individual councilmembers were obscured. We have decided to resume the scorecard, however, in a modified form, using fewer votes and only those in which a key division of opinion occurs. Last month, for example, the council approved legislation that would reform the city's drug laws, including a provision for decriminalizing first and second time pot violations. We think this was a very good idea. Here's the vote:

FOR DECRIMINALIZATION

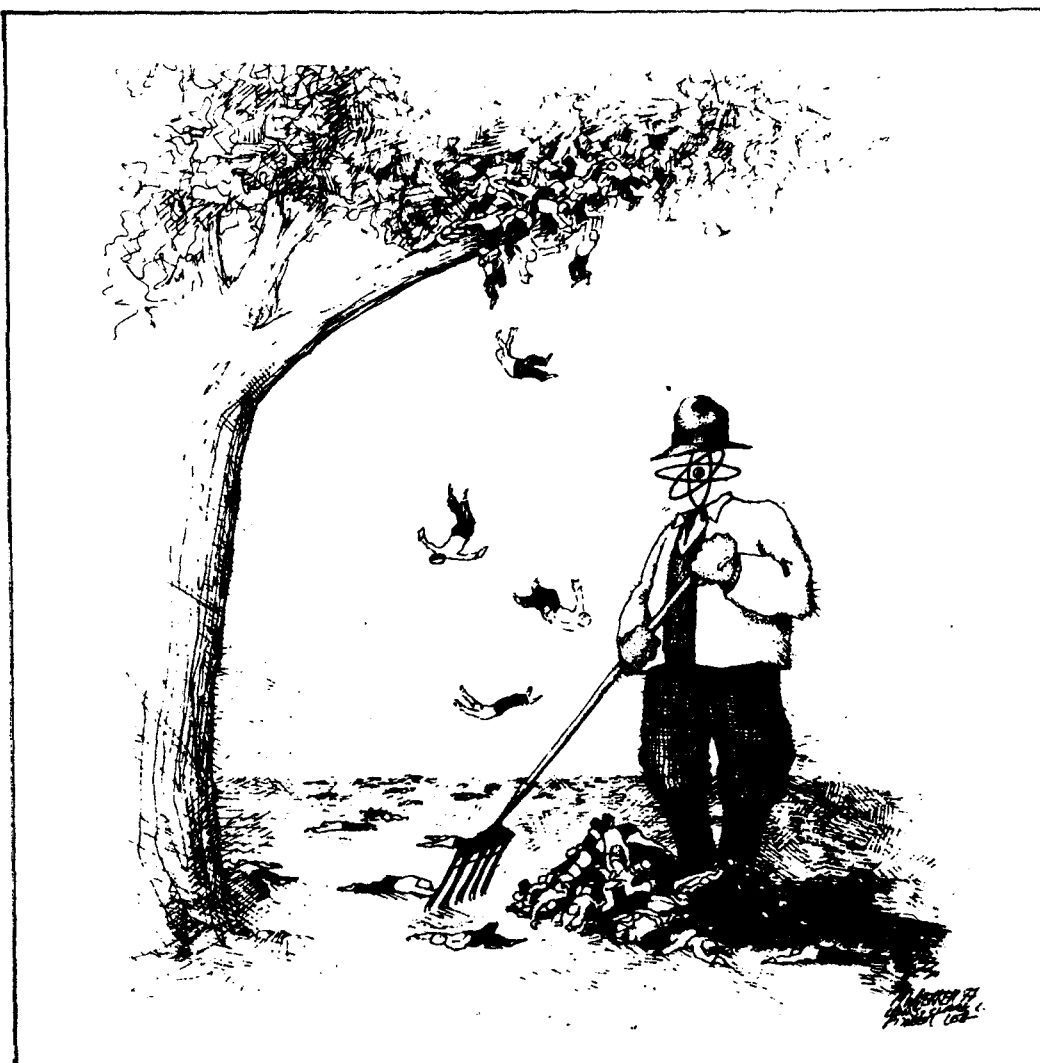
Clarke, Dixon, Shackleton, Rolark, Barry, Mason.

AGAINST DECRIMINALIZATION

J. Moore, D. Moore, Spaulding, Winter, Hardy, Tucker.

will not be devastating to voters who would like to have a choice for mayor or to Barry supporters. But then, the Post doesn't seem too interested in them.

NEXT MONTH:
The Best and Worst of DC



TITLE 34:DC HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

1. Community Brochure: Guide for DC Residents on what the law should do, how the city's failed to enforce it, what you can do about it.

2. Report on Non-enforcement patterns, recommendations for change. Two publications for \$1. Send money and requests to National Lawyers Guild, 509 C NE, DC 20002

AD RATES

REGULAR COMMERCIAL RATE

\$1 a column inch
\$11.25 a quarter page
\$22.50 a half page
\$45 a page

SPECIAL COMMERCIAL RATE

Only 25¢ a square inch for camera-ready ads prepaid. Send us your ad any size or shape, measure it and enclose check or money order. Indicate how many issues you want it run.

NON-PROFIT RATE

50¢ a column inch or 15¢ a square inch. Ads must be camera ready and prepaid.

Half-tones & line art requiring reduction or enlargement: \$4 each. Make-up charges: \$15 per hour for ads not camera-ready.

DEADLINE: Third Tuesday of the month.

DC GAZETTE
1739 Conn. Ave. NW
DC 20009

These rates effective with Dec. issue

THE NEWS BEFORE IT HAPPENS

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, the Gazette has stayed ahead of the times. . . We were the first paper to propose neighborhood councils here (1969), the first to expose the National Visitors Center boondoggle (1969), the first to propose bikeways (1968), the first to propose statehood (1970) and a sunshine law for DC (1971), and the first to expose massive inequities in the local property tax (1973).

Twice we have blown the whistle on the Convention Center scheme, revealing faulty economics and questionable dealings. We told our readers as far back as 1971 that Metro was heading for financial disaster. We helped to kill the urban development corporation modelled on the now-bankrupt New York UDC.

The Gazette has been the leading journalistic voice in the fight against freeways, real estate speculation and developer landgrabs.

And each issue we give you national alternative news you won't find in the corporate media. There's more, much more. Find out for yourself. Use the form to the right.



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Please send me a year's introductory subscription to the Gazette. I enclose \$4.

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Of Cabbage Correspondents & Burger Kings

*In which a reporter from Vegetarian Times
interviews the founder of McDonald's*



Here, reprinted from the Vegetarian Times, is what happened when VT sent its reporter, Paul Obis, to interview Ray Kroc, founder of McDonald's.

PO: Mr. Kroc, there are an estimated 12 million people in this country who don't eat meat. Do you think McDonald's will ever offer something like a soyaburger?

RK: No, even if there are 12 million people who are vegetarians, I think they're dispersed too much to make selling to them profitable. You vegetarians are still a small minority. This is a country of beefeaters: roast beef, hamburgers, steak. That's what the majority of people eat.

PO: Don't you want our business? Your menu doesn't offer anything that I'd be interested in.

RK: Well of course that's a problem, but you can't please everybody. I respect your belief, do your own thing, but frankly it's just not worth it. We operate on volume; we want to sell as much as possible to as many people as possible. If 99 out of 100 people will eat here, why should we cater to that 1 percent? We won't change it to reach a handful of people. We do offer fish, but I guess you'd consider that meat, too. It's done for the Catholics primarily.

PO: Can individual franchise owners offer new entrees?

RK: No, our menu is standardized. We won't allow the owners to deviate from our menu because it would cut down on efficiency if too many items were added and people have come to expect consistency from McDonald's. I guess that would prevent an owner from experimenting with soyaburgers on the side. It's not that we have anything against soyaburgers, but each item on our menu is sale tested. It's not the responsibility of the individual franchiser to test items. If they want to sell other things besides what we offer, then they should go into business for themselves.

PO: On occasion I've gone into McDonald's and I've asked for a cheeseburger without the meat. Either I've been refused or I was expected to pay the full price for a cheeseburger. Why is this?

RK: If you go into a store and buy some tailored suits, you don't expect to pay the same price as the clothes on the rack, do you?

A man once complained to me that one Big Mac was enough for both him and his wife. He wanted us to sell him half a sandwich and charge him half as much. We still have to cook it, we still have to pay someone to take his order, we still have to wrap it.

PO: And...

RK: And so I told him to carry a knife. He can take the other half home to his wife.

If you don't want to eat the meat, order a cheeseburger and give the patty away. I know that doesn't appeal to you, but we can't make exceptions. We've built our reputation on product consistency and fast service. Your order would slow down the process.

PO: What about Burger King's "Have it your way?"

RK: They mean, without the lettuce, with an extra pickle, with extra sauce

— something like that. What you want is a grilled cheese sandwich.

PO: And you don't think grilled cheese would sell?

RK: Well, it would be unnecessary. Beef sells.

PO: What about health? Many people are critical of McDonald's because they say the food is not nutritious. Is this taken into account?

RK: Well some say it's good and others say it isn't. "Nutrition, nutrition." I hear it all the time. Look at those Georgians in Russia, they live to be 150 and they don't know anything about nutrition.

I think the two worst things you can eat are salt and sugar. About 8 years ago we began to offer sugarless soft drinks — somebody suggested that it would be better for the kids. As it turned out, nobody wanted it so it was discontinued. If you think sugar is bad, you don't have to buy our cola or shakes, we sell milk too.

We all have to eat, but I think that as far as preventing disease and staying healthy goes, the most important thing is to get a lot of exercise and keep active.

PO: You spend \$100 million a year on advertising. Do you think you're creating a consumer demand for your products? Don't you think this influences the way people eat?

RK: I think people want the food we offer. They want hamburgers. Our advertising is geared towards getting people to eat here instead of some other places. But I don't think we really change people's diets.

Some people have gone so far as to say we've changed the way America eats. I don't think that's true either.

PO: A number of nutritionists have claimed that a vegetarian diet is healthier. Do you have any thoughts on this?

RK: When I die, I want to go to the grave with a worn-out body. If I lived my life denying myself of the things I like, then it wouldn't be much fun. Who knows, maybe I'd get hit by a car anyway. I enjoy the foods I eat and I wouldn't want to feel restricted.

PO: I don't feel restricted. I enjoy my foods.

RK: That's good. Feeling good about what you eat or what you do is important. When you feel that something is a burden, then it's time to reassess it. As long as you feel good about what you're doing, I would support it.

PO: McDonald's has been immensely successful. How do you account for this?

RK: We give the people what they want: cleanliness, fast service, product consistency, and courteous service. Look, we can't give really better hamburgers or cola, but we have good service and a friendly atmosphere. We pay attention to details. It's important that the gum is scraped off the floors and from under the tables. I've never allowed a juke box in a McDonald's and we keep the phones out of the main dining areas. It's things like this that have made us a success.

PO: I imagine it must make you very happy.

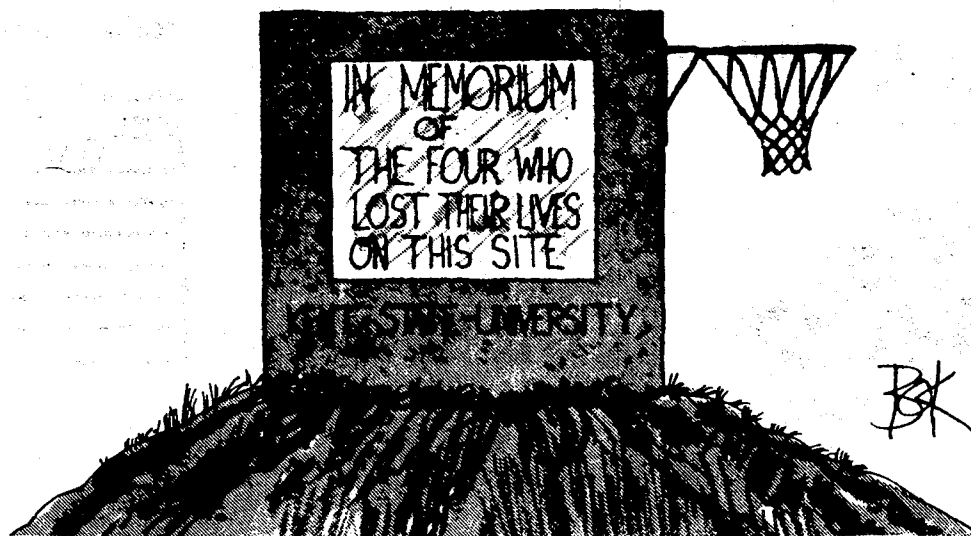
RK: Well, of course it's nice to have money and I give some of it to worthy causes — I enjoy being able to support them. The success of others makes me happy. For example, an acquaintance of mine, an employee of a large corporation for 17 years quit his job, mortgaged his house, and sold his boat and trailer then borrowed more money just to open one of our franchises. He chose a small town in New Mexico and now earns over \$1,000 a week. He's successful and it pleases me to see that he's doing so well.

PO: Is there any advice you can pass on for success?

RK: Well, when I started out, I borrowed heavily and a lot of people thought I was crazy, but I knew it would work. I had the courage of my conviction. It's important to strongly believe in what you're doing. Now I'm no vegetarian, but I can see you believe in what you're doing and even though we're at different points on the scale I think you'll do alright. I think that holds for everybody.

PO: I was wondering if you have any pets.

RK: (He shows me a photo of a dog.) Yes, we have two dogs. I also own a ranch, and I have 40 head of cattle, but they're not for meat really, I keep them around just for the atmosphere.



Recreation

THE GREAT AMERICAN BOOK OF DIRT, SIDEWALK, STOOP, ALLEY, AND CURB GAMES

By Fred Ferretti

Paper: \$3.95

It is that time after dinner but before bed in the dear languorous past of our summers on the stoop. Everybody can come out: Kenny, Don, Janet, Charlie, but especially the leader, Fred Ferretti, with his uncanny knack of remembering exactly where first base was in stickball (the driver's door of the 1935 Packard), his reverence for the Heinie Manush baseball flipping card, his recognition of the "spal-deen" as the one and only genuine and true playing ball.

Ferretti makes it all current in his newest book of games to play with little equipment beyond the imagination. What a world of fantasy, scheming, grandeur, bitter loss and heady conquest this is! Explicit directions for Pottsie (in diagram, with variations), instructions for Russia (one sidewalk game, another being the devilish handball), Mumblety-Peg, Errors, Running Bases.

FRISBEE

By Stancil E.D. Johnson, M.D.

Paper: \$4.95

A practitioner's manual and definitive treatise. Exactly what it claims to be and then some.

"The text is overstuffed with information, useful and otherwise," notes the *Washington Post*. "...the writing is bright and appropriate."

A truly complete book for the Frisbee amateur, expert, master. Including history, lore, disc anatomies, how-to, technique, aerodynamics, tricks, games (over 20 of them), tournaments, organizations, meteorologies, the dog. By the official historian for the International Frisbee Association.



The Tennis Enemy: A Compendium of the Various Unpleasant Types to Be Found on the Opposite Side of the Net

Robert Aaron and Jeb Brady

"The Gloater," "The Sulker," "The Hothead," "The Cheater" and other members of that appalling species to be found on the opposite side of a tennis court are exposed in these humorous full-page illustrations and descriptions. One of the best ways to confront any one of these "enemies" would be to give this book as a gift with the appropriate page marked.

(64 pages, 8 1/2 x 11, \$2.95 perfectbound)

THE NEW AEROBICS: This is one of the most useful exercise books available. Find out how jogging can improve your life. \$1.20

**HIKING TRAILS IN THE NE
HIKING TRAILS IN THE SOUTHERN
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LANTIC STATES:** Well-written series for hikers. List: \$5.95 each. Our price: \$4.75

ANYBODY'S SKATEBOARD BOOK

Great present for the young skateboarder or anyone who wants to find out what it's all about. \$3.

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FIRST BOOK OF TIGO PUZZLES

For all you mathematical wizards who are bored to tears with crossword puzzles and scrabble, here's a completely new kind of puzzle based on numbers. With puzzles which range from simple to very difficult, Tigo can be played by all members of the family. Great for travellers, puzzle fans, or as a party game. 40 puzzles included with solutions.

46 pages, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, \$1.50 saddlest'd

DESIGN YOURSELF

Kurt Hanks, Larry Belliston, Dave Edwards

This book shows how to be creative with more than a pencil and paper—but with one's own thinking, communicating and planning processes. The authors expand the definition of "good design" to "finding the best solution to a problem, given certain guidelines or limitations." Illustrated. 144 pages, 8 1/2 x 11, \$5.95 perfectbound

Books for Kids

GOOD NIGHT MOON: One of our favorite children's books. Wonderful for getting the under six crowd quieted down before bedtime. \$3.95

100 FAVORITE FOLK TALES: "If you buy only one fairytale book a year, buy this." -- New York Times. \$5.95

WHAT IF? A delightful, educational, ecology-minded coloring book by DC artist Di Stovall. Perfect for your child. \$1.50.

MOMMIES AT WORK: A picture and word book for the young child that shows what mothers do other than "find mittens that are lost." List: \$5.75. Our price: \$4.60

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE: Another of our favorites. Story and pictures by Maurice Sendak. \$4.95
STUART LITTLE AND CHARLOTTE'S WEB. E.B. White's great tales. \$1.25 each.

Cooking

WHAT'S COOKING DOWN EAST. This is the book that taught your editor how to make the best fish chowder in town. Lots of other fine down east recipes. \$1.50

BACH'S LUNCH PICNIC AND PATIO CLASSICS: We discovered this book through a friend in Washington who recommended it highly. 200 recipes for picnics and patio dining. \$3.25 and worth it.

NUTRITION SCOREBOARD: Your guide to better eating by Michael Jacobson. Information on what foods give you what you need and which don't. \$1.75

A WORLD OF BAKING
Delores Casella

This basic book on the making and baking of breads, cakes and almost anything you can sink your teeth into is now available in paperback. 369 pages, 6 x 9, \$4.95

COOKING UNDER PRESSURE: Says the Star: "It delivers on the promise, cutting through the mystique of pressure cooking with an intelligent introduction, complete list of do's and don't's, cooking times and more than 50 recipes." \$1.95

THE NEW YORK TIMES NATURAL FOODS COOKBOOK: Over 700 recipes for those who care what they eat. \$2.25

Gardening

KEEPING THE HARVEST; Home storage of vegetables and fruits. So you've grown all those tomatoes; now what are you going to do with them? This book tells you. List: \$5.95. Our price \$4.75.

NEW YORK TIMES BOOK OF HOUSE PLANTS: The NYT gives you the way to keep the inside of your house green. List: \$5.95. Our price: \$4.75

40% Off Sale!

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The amazing story of how plants react to their environment. \$1.17

CATCHER IN THE RYE: 75¢
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TIGHTENING THE CIRCLE
OVER EEL COUNTRY: A book of poems by one of Washington's leading poets, E. Ritchie. \$2.25

WATERSHIP DOWN: \$1.35

SOLD OUT

ET A...
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THE NEW YORK TIMES NATURAL FOODS COOKBOOK: Over 700 recipes for those who care what they eat. \$2.25

REFERENCE

ELEMENTS OF STYLE: By E. B. White and William Strunk. If you want to improve your writing without going to a lot of trouble this is one of the best books to use. \$1.65

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER: The classic guide to running meetings. Now available in paperback, so you can take your copy to every meeting. \$1.50

THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE DICTIONARY. More than 40,000 entries. Synonyms arranged by word length alphabetically. Many other important features. \$5.95

THE NEW ROGET'S THESAURUS IN DICTIONARY FORM: Brighten up your language, find that word you can't think of. \$1.50

THE WHOLE AIR WEATHER GUIDE

Walter F. Dabberdt

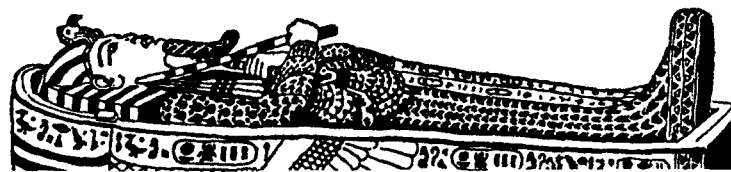
During the past months weather has been a news headline. This handy guide demystifies weather in preparing the daily weather report. Meteorologist Dabberdt has written this guide for the lay person explaining what weather is, how it is predicted and where to obtain the most reliable, up-to-date information. With many photographs and diagrams—and even tips on do-it-yourself forecasting. 64 pages, 5½ x 8½, \$2.95 perfectbound

TUTANKHAMUN AND THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Otto Neubert

This book should draw great interest because of the enormously popular exhibit of the Treasures of Tutankham that is currently being

shown in this country. Mr. Neubert was one of the first visitors to the opened tomb of Tut when it was discovered 50 years ago. His book describes the short, turbulent life of this teenage monarch and presents a vivid, detailed picture of the Egypt of 3000 B. C. 235 pages, 4¼ x 7, \$1.95 perfectbound



SPORTS

DR. SHEEHAN ON RUNNING: For solid, common-sense and good-humored advice on running and jogging, it's hard to beat George Sheehan, MD. This book covers everything from sweat to sugar as it concerns the runner. \$3.95

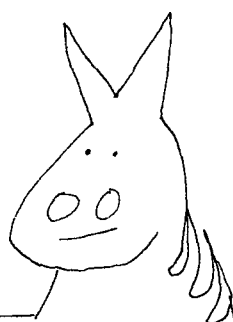
COMPLETE WEIGHT TRAINING BOOK: This book, for men and women, is the best comprehensive work on the subject we've seen. \$6.95

THE AMERICAN BIKING ATLAS & TOURING GUIDE. 150 vacation and weekend tours throughout the country. \$5.95

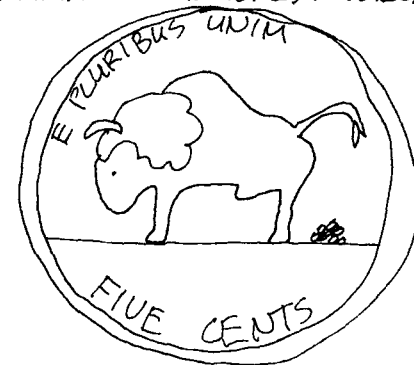
THE BASIC SOCCER GUIDE: A fine book on the game that would be an ideal present for a young soccer player or for anyone who wishes to refresh their skills. \$3.50



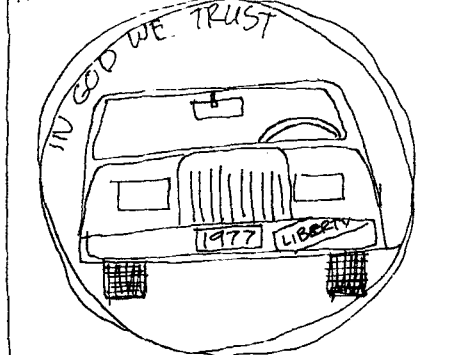
SOME FOLKS SAY THAT PUTTING PRESIDENTS' FACES ON OUR COINS ADDS NEEDLESS POMP TO THE OFFICE—THEY SAY COINS COULD SHOW REAL VALUES INSTEAD...



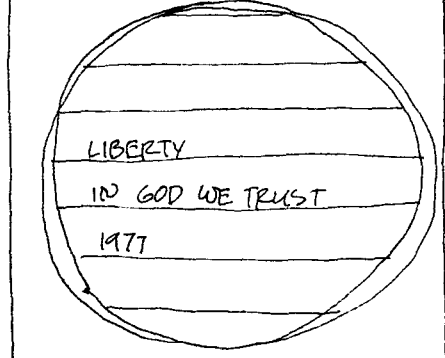
WE MIGHT PUT A BUFFALO ON THE NICKLE TO SYMBOLIZE COMMITMENT TO DOMESTIC FUEL...



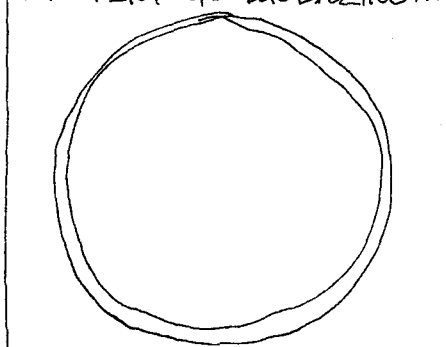
A LINCOLN ON THE PENNY COULD SYMBOLIZE A FLAW IN THAT COMMITMENT...



OUR QUARTERS MIGHT HAVE LINES ON THEM TO HONOR ALUMINUM SIDING...



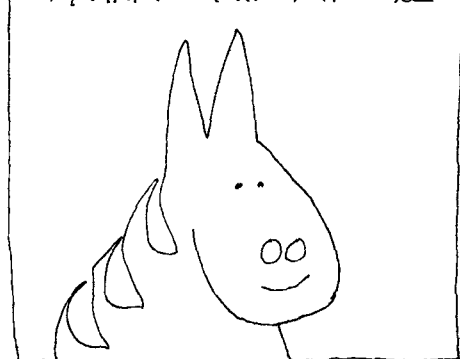
DIMES COULD BE LEFT BLANK IN PRAISE OF REDEVELOPERS DEPENDENT ON BULLDOZING...



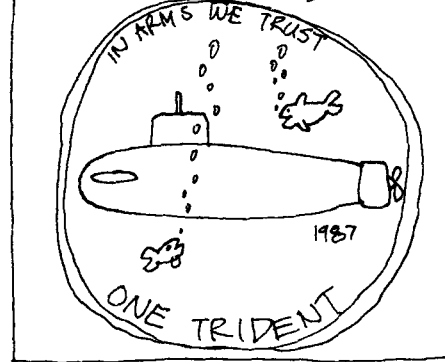
SOME COINS COULD BECOME COMMEMORATIVES OF SPECIAL EVENTS...



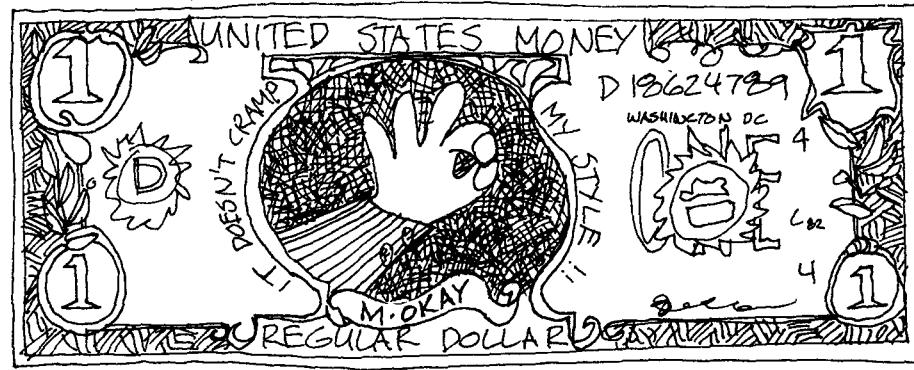
WE COULD ALSO MAKE COINS THAT, LIKE SUBWAY TOKENS, ARE FOR A PARTICULAR PURCHASE...



FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD MAKE A \$1,200,000,000 COIN GOOD FOR ONE SUB...



WE COULD EVEN FIX UP BILLS—PERHAPS JUST BY RENTING OUT SURFACES FOR IMPORTANT MESSAGES BY SPONSORS OF THE ECONOMY...



APPLE PIE

An American Report

NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

PARSLEY LEAVES SPRINKLED WITH embalming fluid is turning up on the streets in some places — being sold as pot. A funeral home in Harrisburg, Pa., was held up recently and robbed of only one thing: three 12 oz. bottles of embalming fluid. . . . NEW YORK NEWS COLUMNIST Liz Smith asked Prince Charles how he stays awake through all his official activities. Without batting a royal eyelash, he replied: "amphetamines."

THE MOTHER OF A TEN YEAR OLD BOY is suing a Philadelphia department store for \$100G. Says the store's robot, "Kaltu" "accosted, touched, assaulted and terrorized" the infant. Said the store manager: "It's just a normal robot. . . . STATE TROOPERS IN up-state New York tried to talk a man out of suicide by rapping with him for five hours over the CB. But while they were trying, other CBers got on the line and said things like, "Go ahead, shoot yourself chicken," "What are you waiting for, jerk?" and "OK Kook, blow your head off and give us a thrill." At last report, the man was still alive after blasting himself in the stomach with an M-1.

A CONNECTICUT company reports it will soon begin marketing the long-awaited left-handed monkey-wrench.

Aristera left-handed products explains that a left-handed monkey wrench is one in which the thumb-screw which operates the device turns in the opposite direction from the usual. This means that lefties, rather than the right-handers, can use it more easily, the company says.

Among Aristera's other products are such items as scissors, pot-holders and even spiral notebooks designed especially for southpaws.

A SOVIET scientist claims that hundreds of mysterious disappearances in the so-called "Bermuda Triangle" area may have been caused by what he calls "infrasound."

Oceanographer Vladimir Azhada, writing in the Soviet publication *Science and Life*, argues that powerful, low-frequency sound waves are being generated in the Bermuda area by sharp temperature changes in the water and unique wind currents there.

"Infrasound waves" generated in the laboratory have been strong enough to break ship masts apart and even to disrupt human sense organs and destroy tissues. Azhada writes that hundreds of ships and planes may be destroyed in the triangle by infrasound shock waves that suddenly struck their crews in broad daylight without warning.

LABOR LEADERS representing more than 200,000 workers met recently in Detroit to set up a national conference aimed at kicking off a drive to shorten the work week. Auto workers president Frank Runnels told the assembled union leaders that cutting the working hours of some 60 million Americans by just one hour a week would result in "over 1.5 million new jobs for currently unemployed persons."

The unemployment rate for all non-white vets between age 20 and 24 is 25 percent, according to the Veteran's Administration. For blacks, it's 35 percent.

Job placement for vets fell by 16,000 last year. The number of Vietnam vets in job training programs also dropped by 23.6 percent.

One study at the Minnesota State Prison for Adult Offenders at Stillwater, found that most veterans in the prison had been convicted of economic or drug-related crimes rather than crimes of violence.

Vietnam vets constitute at least 30 percent of the nation's prison population, according to Dr. Peter Selerno, executive director of the United Presbyterian Church's Veterans Service.

Vietnam vets count for 20.3 percent of suicides within veterans hospitals, though they make up only 9.4 percent of the hospitals' population.

Some 700,000 Vietnam vets have less-than-honorable discharges, and about 500,000 of that number served out full tours of duty in Vietnam.

THE OTHER GOVERNMENT

NEWLY-DECLASSIFIED CIA documents reveal that one of the reasons behind the agency's secret drug experiments during the past thirty years was an attempt to discover a way to induce amnesia in retiring CIA officers.

The documents indicate that agency executives were concerned about what they called the "tremendous amounts of information" known to retiring CIA personnel. The agency hoped to develop a chemical which could be given to employees to make them forget the sensitive secrets they knew about.

"Declassified Document News," a Virginia publication which indexes recently declassified CIA documents, quotes from one M-K ultra memo which states, "Some individuals in the agency had to know tremendous amounts of information, and if a way could be found to produce amnesia...after the individual left the agency, it would be a remarkable thing."

Other memos from another secret CIA project, known as "Artichoke," quote CIA leaders as hoping to develop techniques which would — in their words — "Guarantee amnesia in certain individuals — specifically CIA personnel about to retire from the agency..."

No one can remember if such a chemical was developed.

WASHINGTON investigative reporter Tad Szulc is claiming that the "overriding rea-

son" the Carter administration decided not to prosecute former CIA Director Richard Helms is that Carter feared a public trial would reveal still-secret CIA ties to most of America's largest banks.

Szulc, writing in the first issue of a new magazine called *Inquiry*, alleges that a trial of Helms would probably have disclosed extensive connections between CIA covert activities abroad and US financial institutions operating around the world.

According to Szulc, "the age of agents carrying suitcases full of money from country to country is gone. It has been replaced," he says, "by highly sophisticated banking methods under which funds move around the world, invisibly and untraceably."

Szulc quotes one reliable source as telling him: "You will find that every major — and lots of minor — American banks have been involved as CIA channels."

To keep this alleged CIA banking connection a secret, Szulc says, the Carter administration made a deal: Helms agreed to keep quiet; in return he was merely placed on probation and avoided a possible prison term.

DANIEL ELLSBERG says that Eisenhower, JFK and LBJ all delegated to military personnel the authority to fire off nuclear weapons without White House permission.

OF WOMEN

A SURVEY OF 5400 Catholic churchgoers in 19 states found 68% support for the ERA, 12 points higher than the national average. The same were in favor of an anti-abortion amendment 49%-39%. Says Dolly Pomerleau, one of the coordinators of the study, "ERA and abortion are two separate issues. Organizations like the National Council of Catholic Women and spokesperson like Phyllis Schlafly who have tried to link ERA with abortion are not only out of touch with the issues, but out of touch with the way Catholic people think." (Info: Quixote Ctr, 3311 Chauncy Place #301, Mt. Rainer, Md.)

FOR THE FIRST TIME, more women than men are going off to four year colleges. . . . CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR reports 15% of high school male students are taking home ec courses. . . . DISTRICT COURT says American Airlines can't force pregnant stewardesses to take unpaid leave of absence during pregnancies.

WOMEN WHO WERE "behind the man behind the gun" during WWII, may have gotten cancer for their war efforts. Marlene Mainker, who's studying the problem, reports that job-related health studies have concentrated on men, and the women are hard to track because of name changes due to marriage or divorce. Women who were exposed to toxic chemicals during WWII can write to her at Womenpower Projects, Inc., 18 Oak Ridge, Springfield, NJ. 07081.

NEW YORK HOSPITAL RESEARCH Kathryn Welds says a study of 590 professional women who chose not to have children found the group as fulfilled and mature as those who raise children. . . . EDITH PHELPS, executive director of the Girls' Clubs of America says that girls are almost totally ignored in the struggle for equal rights. Teenage female unemployment runs 40-50%. Seventy-five percent of young status offenders are girls. Boys organizations in the US get \$22 million in foundation grants a year; girls groups get only \$5.5 million.





How to bring baseball back to DC

FIFTY-FIVE years ago, the Supreme Court decided that, because baseball exhibitions were purely local affairs, baseball was exempt from the Sherman Anti-trust Act. In Justice Holmes' opinion baseball leagues had nothing to do with interstate commerce.

Although baseball has changed significantly since then, the decision has never been reversed. There is no hiding it, though: like other professional sports, baseball is indeed big business. In the mid-sixties, CBS bought the New York Yankees. The Houston Astros are currently jointly owned by subsidiaries of the General Electric and Ford Motor companies. Arthur Kroc, owner of McDonald's, also owns the San Diego Padres. The St. Louis Cardinals are owned by Budweiser's August Busch. The Wrigley chewing gum family has owned the Chicago Cubs for forty-three years.

The owners of professional sports teams are now, by and large, professional money-makers. They are involved in sports for profit and they go where the profit is greatest. They have learned that in sports, as in any other big business, profit comes from three sources: the consumers, the local taxpayers and the national taxpayers.

Jack Kent Cooke, owner of the Los Angeles Lakers and Kings, wanted to increase his 25% share of stock in Washington's football Redskins. He secured loans that enabled him to buy out the old owners; now, he is saddled with almost \$1 million in annual interest payments. In 1976, the Redskins ticket prices jumped to an average price of \$11.28, with increases ranging between twelve and twenty-two percent. Why are Washington fans forced to pay the highest ticket prices in the league? Because, as Sports Illustrated

noted, "the fact is that Cooke and Co. are, in effect, asking the fans to buy the team for them."

Local taxpayers are also asked to pay for the profits of professional sports teams. As one Washington sports columnist has written:

"In several cases, cities, counties and states have become underwriters for pro sports teams by backing bonds, reducing rents, and turning over a hefty chunk of their share of concession and parking income to the franchise. Even in the handful of cases involving privately built and owned sports arenas, the governments sometimes become abettors by building special access roads and sewerage facilities, changing zoning classifications to lower tax status, and often waiving normal requirements."

These are not minor items. New York City, at the height of its financial crisis, spent over \$120 million to build a new Yankee Stadium. In Baltimore, the Orioles and Colts have negotiated a favorable lease for the use of the municipal stadium. The lease costs the city an estimated \$1 million in revenue annually and holds the city responsible for all capital improvements and maintenance. Ballpark concessions netted over \$23 million for clubs last year.

DC's RFK Stadium is a classic example of how the taxpayers pay while a handful of owners profit. In July 1960, the DC Armory Board, which operates the stadium, sold \$19.8 million of tax-free bonds at 4.2% interest. Only in its first year of operation did the stadium generate enough revenue to cover interest payments. Not one cent of the principal has been paid off. As a result, the city has had to borrow from the US Treasury to meet annual interest payments of \$831,600. And, in two years, the bonds will come due and the city will have to find \$19.8 million to pay them off.

One reason that Washington taxpayers are stuck with this burden is the behavior of Bob Short, the owner of what used to be the Washington Senators. When the Armory Board rejected Short's demand that he only pay \$1 rental on the stadium for the first million paying customers and that he be given all parking revenue and a large cut of ballpark concessions, Short moved the team to Texas. The stadium's only regular summer tenant is a soccer team.

Just as textile plants have moved from the Northeast to the South in search of lower wages and better tax breaks, so sports teams have begun leapfrogging around the country. In 1970, the Seattle Pilots left that city after their first season; they negotiated a more profitable

This article was the result of a collaborative effort of five DC sports fans: Doug and Steve Hellinger, Richard Kazis, David Morris and Neil Seldman. It is reprinted from Self Reliance, the newsletter of the Institute for Local Self Reliance, 1717 18th St. NW, DC. Subscriptions are \$6 a year for individuals, \$11 for institutions.

ACTION NOTES



REX Weiner and Deanne Stillman have put together a 21-page questionnaire on the sixties and seventies that they call the "Woodstock Census." If you are between the ages of 25 and 37 and would like a copy, you can write: Woodstock Census, 152, 42nd St., Room 418, NYC NY 10036. In the questionnaire, people are asked how they felt about everything from armpit hair on women to workshirts, from believing a story in the Berkeley Barb to buying what Time said.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARISM IN EDUCATION
A group of fifty educators has formed to alert communities to the recruiting, training and propaganda that military personnel carry out in schools and colleges. Box 271, Nyack, NY. 10960.

WEAPONS FOR THE WORLD: New publication from the Council on Economic Priorities gives details on the nation's top arms exporters: Northrop, McDonnell Douglas, Grumman, Litton, GE, Raytheon, FMC, Hughes, Lockheed, Textron. You can join CEP for \$15 a year. CEP, 84 Fifth Ave., NYC NY 10011.

CHRYSLIS: A NEW QUARTERLY OF WOMEN'S CULTURE. \$10 annually from Chrysalis, c/o Women's Building, 1727 N. Spring St., LA CA 90012

THE CIA IN JORDAN: Counterspy Magazine has just published a report on CIA activities in Jordan. You can receive Counterspy regularly for \$10 for six issues. P.O. Box 647, Ben Franklin Station, DC 20044

NEW INTERNATIONAL REVIEW: Forum for trade unionists and social democrats. Info: PO Box 163, Rosedale, NY 11422

arrangement as the Milwaukee Brewers. Kansas City moved to Oakland; Milwaukee moved to Atlanta. Local taxpayers subsidize the teams even when there is no guarantee that the teams will stay in the city.

National taxpayers also provide sports owners with profits, whether their city has a team or not. They do so by paying the taxes which owners avoid through the

complicated process of depreciation. Players, like machines, "wear out:" the average playing career of a professional baseball player who plays at least sixty days is 4.75 years. Owners feel that they are entitled to depreciate their players in the same way that they would machines. By doing so, owners are able to turn operating profits into bookkeeping losses

and operating losses into after-taxes gains. As Bill Veeck, the owner of the Chicago White Sox, says, "Selling a baseball team is selling the right to depreciate." The trick to depreciating, as explained in the May-June issue of *Dollars and Sense*, "is to buy a baseball team and allocate as much of the purchase price as possible to player contracts. This technique reached its height in 1966 when the Atlanta Braves allocated 99% of the \$6.1 million price of the team to players' contracts. This worked out to allow \$4.2 million in profits to go tax-free."

As long as professional sports teams are owned by a few wealthy individuals and multinational corporations, cities and their citizens will have no control over teams which represent them to the rest of the nation. New York City has spent over \$120 million to build a new Yankee Stadium; for only \$12 million the city could have bought the whole team.

The possibility of municipal or community ownership of professional teams is perhaps more realistic now than it has been in many years. As one sports reporter commented, "The fact remains that more major league franchises are now, or soon will be, up for sale than at any time in recent memory." As a result of increased player salaries and new legal limitations on depreciation allowances, prices are lower now than they were ten years ago. CBS bought the Yankees for \$13.2 million and sold them in 1973 for \$10 million. In 1972, the Cleveland Indians were purchased for \$11 million. Part-owner Alva Bonds feels that he would be lucky if he could get \$10 million today. The Oakland Athletics are reportedly up for sale for \$8 million. Other teams that may be on the auction block are Houston, Baltimore, and Boston.

Communities wanting to buy these teams (or to start their own) do not have to raise all of the capital at once. Bill Veeck explains that only 50% of the purchase price is required as a down payment. Another ten percent of the down payment is needed for first year operating expenses. Thus, to purchase a \$10 million team, a city need raise only \$5.5 million initially.



"HERE, PUT ON THIS DISGUISE!"

SON OF S.1

The Criminal Code Reform Act of 1977, S.1437, is moving through the Senate. This bill is a modified form of the notorious S.1 that was blocked by a coalition of civil liberties groups. As this article by John Shattuck, director of the ACLU's Washington office, points out, the revised measure still contains serious problems. Among them:

Sentencing

The sentencing provisions of S.1437 fall far short of reform and in several key respects could exacerbate problems in the existing federal sentencing system. Disparities in federal sentencing could continue and the current indeterminate sentencing system would be preserved.

If S.1437 is enacted, in some cases sentences would be even more severe than under existing law. For example, a judge would be able to make a prisoner ineligible for parole for the entire length of the sentence, unlike current law where a prisoner is usually eligible for parole after serving one-third of his sentence.

Another objection is that S.1437 would permit the government to appeal sentences that it regards as too lenient. This provision is not only of questionable constitutionality in view of the Double Jeopardy Clause, but is also unsound public policy.

Although the bill would permit sentencing alternatives to incarceration, it does not require or even encourage such alternatives as fines, restitution, forfeiture, intermittent incarceration, etc. The ACLU believes that any sentencing statute must contain a presumption in favor of alternatives to incarceration.

New Crimes Created by S.1437

S.1437 would create new crimes or expand existing crimes in a variety of areas. The rationale of the bill in many of these areas seems to be protection of the government from the people. A few examples:

- A person is guilty of a crime if he "intentionally obstructs or impairs a government function by defrauding the government in any manner." This provision could arguably be used to enforce "official secrecy" against the press if government information is published without authorization. A slightly narrower version in existing law was used to charge David Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers prosecution.

- Obstructing a government function by physical interference is made a crime under S.1437. Virtually every mass demonstration would, at one moment or another, fall within its prohibition. The unfettered terms of this section invite selective abuse by state and local officials engaged in activities on behalf of the federal government.

- The definition of "hindering law enforcement" is expanded so that merely concealing a suspect's "identity"—without harboring a fugitive—becomes a crime. As drafted, this provision precludes the defense of privilege, thereby encroaching on First Amendment protection for newsgathering and a reporter's traditional right to protect sources of news.

- Making a false oral statement to a law enforcement official would become a crime if S.1437 is enacted. While there is now some dispute whether current law covers such statements, the bill resolves the conflict in favor of coverage, thus overruling a number of judicial decisions and permanently expanding existing law.

- Extortion laws are broadened to cover damage to property during a lawful strike to induce an employer to agree to legitimate collective bargaining demands. The Supreme Court in 1973 warned that such an expansion of the crime of extortion "would make an extraordinary change in federal labor law."

- S.1437 would, for the first time, enact a comprehensive federal obscenity statute prohibiting the commercial dissemination of "obscene material" based on community standards. Moreover, a person could be prosecuted in any district in the country for distributing materials regarded as obscene by local standards.

- Failing to obey a public safety order becomes a crime under S.1437. No comparable offense exists under current federal law. Any federal employee would have authority to disperse a gathering, to forbid picketing or parading, or to require citizens to refrain from leafleting or canvassing whenever, in his judgment, there is a risk of injury to person or property.

Actions on S.1437

Mark-up on S.1437 is being conducted in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Senate is unlikely to vote on the bill until early in 1978. The House plans hearings late this fall on H.R. 6869, the companion bill, and these will probably continue into 1978.

Please contact your Senators and Representatives warning them of the dangers to civil liberties in S.1437 and H.R.6869 and urging them to oppose these bills unless they are substantially revised.

From CIVIL LIBERTIES, the newsletter of the ACLU.

Ownership could be divided up so that the team would be owned by a large number of people. The city itself could own 33% of the team, individuals and community organizations could own the other 67%. Given that, if the project were to be successful, a certain amount of money would have to be raised for publicity and advertising, approximately \$4.2 million would have to come from the public. If shares cost \$25 and the upper limit on investment were set at \$1000 per person, then ownership would be open to working people as well as to the wealthy. Each stockholder could be limited to one vote so that large investors would have no more power than small investors. Shopkeepers could be given some kind of publicity incentive to buy shares. If the average investment were between \$100 and \$200, between 21,000 and 42,000 individuals and organizations would have to buy shares in order to raise the required sum. Spreading ownership so widely would make it highly unlikely that the team would leave to find a new home.

Even though the concept of community ownership is a new one for the major leagues, it is not all that novel. Twenty years ago, the Saint Louis Cardinals, which owned the Triple A minor league team in Rochester, New York, decided to relocate. Faced with

the prospect of losing their team, almost 8,000 local fans raised \$525,000 to purchase the franchise, the stadium, and assorted equipment from the Cardinals. There was, and still is, only one class of stock. Initially, the price was \$10 a share. No person can own more than 5% of the total outstanding stock. The average investment is about \$65.

The investment has not proven financially rewarding, since the stock value has been cut in half and no dividends have been paid. That is not so important, however. The goal of the stockholders, for the most part, was not financial; it was civic. The investors wanted to keep baseball in Rochester and they succeeded. The team now has a contract with the Baltimore Orioles whereby Baltimore pays 75% of the Rochester players' salaries. Theoretically, the board of directors could move the team one day; but, since the team has over thirty board members and they are all established members of the Rochester community it is doubtful that the team will ever move.

Buffalo, New York, also had a community-owned minor league team, purchased from the Detroit Tigers. The stadium, however, remained in private hands. The stadium is now gone; with it, went baseball in Buffalo. Rochester was able to avoid that problem by including the purchase of the stadium in with the purchase of the team.

In professional football, the Green Bay Packers are the only publicly-owned team. As a result, they are the only one of the NFL's twenty-eight teams which issues an annual income statement. As Marvin Miller, Executive Director of the Major League Players' Association, has explained, professional sports "is the most secretive industry in the country."

Community ownership would allow both players and local residents to know the economics of the enterprise.

There are signs that there is interest in broad community ownership of pro teams. Charley Finley has said, "If I could find 10,000 people and get them to put in \$100 each, we could fight all those millionaires." Joe Wheeler has been asking Washington, DC fans to purchase \$25 shares (minimum purchase \$150) in order to buy a team for the city. What both Finley and Wheeler have ignored is that people want ownership because they want a certain amount of control. Neither Finley nor Wheeler has any plans to give up his position as the voting majority. Each simply wants to tap a growing investment market of concerned baseball fans. Community ownership would allow people the same investment opportunity, but would give owners input and control as well.

Community ownership would alter the nature of professional sports somewhat. Teams would be rooted in their communities and would not be moved around. Leagues would more closely resemble British soccer leagues. In England, civic pride and social prestige take precedence over profit. Attendance and local loyalty vary little with the team's place in the division standings. What matters is the sense that the team "belongs" to the people of the city.

Community ownership would also affect players. Many players might prefer to stay in a community where they have roots, where their children go to school, and where there is loyal support. It may be that, because of a lack of capital or because of the team's need to operate in the black without the luxury of depreciation, a community-owned team would not be able to afford the high salaries which superstar players now demand. That is not too serious



a problem. There has proven to be less correlation than expected between the amount of money spent on ballplayers and the record of a given team. The Baltimore Orioles are a case in point. A young team of relatively low-paid players, the Orioles were pennant contenders this year.

Community-ownership of the stadium would also be important to the area residents. Most stadiums are woefully underused. Given that concessions and parking generate revenue, cities could afford to open stadiums for a variety of events. When Bill Veeck owned the Suffolk Downs Raceway outside of Boston, he brought flower shows and industrial shows, auto shows, and folk festivals to the track. In Veeck's words "Part of the use of the stadium is the entertainment of the citizenry." Stadiums should be true community centers and cultural centers for area residents.

The model of community ownership of sports teams and facilities is feasible for some cities right now. DC cries out for a major or minor league professional team. Other cities are also looking. For most cities, the model is one for the future. We look forward to the day when team names reflect their actual owners, when team locations are permanent and not just temporary projects for subsidiaries of multinational companies.

How to get the grease

If you'd like to find out what the FBI or CIA has on you, here's the proper form for your request letter:

Agency name
Their address

Your address
Date

Dear

I hereby request personal access to a copy of any document or report which mentions my name in your files, under 5 U.S.C. 552 et seq., The Freedom of Information Act.

If you agree to this request in whole or in part, please inform me of the search fees and the reproduction fees in advance of fulfilling the request (or please supply me with the information if the search and copy fees do not exceed a total of \$).

If any part of this request is denied, please inform me of your appeal procedures. I will consider my request denied if I have no communication from you within 10 working days of receipt of this letter.

Please be put on notice that I consider this information clearly releasable under the Freedom of Information Act.

Thank you for your attention.

(signature)

If they write back withholding documents, here's the proper form for your appeal letter:

Head of Government department, commission, or agency

Return address
Date

Dear

On (date), I sent a letter requesting access to copies of any document or report which mentions my name in your files, under 5 U.S.C. 552, The Freedom of Information Act.

On (date), I received a letter from (name, title, address) denying my request.

I hereby appeal that denial and if I do not hear from you within 20 working days, I will consider my appeal denied.

I consider the information requested clearly releasable under the Freedom of Information Act and I hereby inform you that I would consider your denial to be clearly arbitrary and capricious as defined by the Act.

Enclosed please find a copy of my original request and the response.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
(signature)



If your appeal is denied, you can take the agency to court, and the agency must prove why the records should be withheld.

However, even the ACLU's pamphlet on "How to Use the FOIA" admits, "If an agency is reluctant to release information you feel you are entitled to, you will almost certainly find the government bureaucracy too complex to fight alone. See a lawyer."

So if you don't have the money to hire a lawyer, all you can do is become cynical and embittered, lose faith in The System, and go home and sulk.
--Phoebe Caulfield

From the Post-Amerikan

Letters from the Jet Stream

Ever since 1947 when they were roommates at West Point, Rauchwell M. E. Surplus hated and envied Angus Merkle. Ever since 1947 Surplus plotted revenge.

Merkle ranked 8th in his class and went on to a brilliant career that most recently included the posh command of the 4th Infantile Division nestled amidst the swimming pools and golf courses around Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Surplus ranked 80th and plodded through 30 years of unnoticed service. He ended up stuck with the 23rd Unborn, a generally disgusting outfit hidden amidst the potato farms that surround Fort Centipede, Idaho.

Carefully, but with all the accumulated bitterness and jealousy of 30 years of knowing that people were laughing about him behind his back, Surplus waited for Merkle to become comfortable in his swank command. Then he struck.

6 October 1977

From: R.M.E. Surplus III, Brigadier General
Commander, 23rd Unborn Division
Fort Centipede, Idaho

To: Angus U. Merkle, Major General
Commander, 4th Infantile Division
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Re: Assumption of command, 4th Infantile Division.
General Merkle:

1. In accordance with US Army Special Order Number (classified) I will assume command of the 4th Infantile Division as of 7 December 1977. I request full honor guards and ceremonies commensurate with the rank of Major General, USA, to which I shall be promoted on said assumption of command.

2. I request living quarters for myself and family: a. Wife, Lucretia, age (classified); b. Son, Boris, age 17; c. Daughter, Heidi, age 33; d. Dog, Great Dane, Bismarck, age 6.

3. A welcoming reception is in order. Myself and family will be available to receive guests at the 4th Infantile Division's Officers Club from 1500 to 1600, 2 December 1977.

4. I realize forced retirement to civilian life can be painful and in light of our years together at the Academy, I shall be more than happy to offer any possible assistance in facilitating a comfortable transition.

Cordially,
Buck.

8 October 1977

From: Maj. Gen. Angus U. Merkle

To: Brig. Gen. R.M.E. Surplus

Re: Yours of 6 October.

Buck:

How are things in Fort Centipede besides cold? From the tone of your last letter it is evident that you desperately need help. Not the weather—you. Buck, old chap, you must have forgotten to put on your bifocals. The only orders I have received relating to you or your command were the ones tracing the 300 rolls of toilet paper we received by mistake last month. It is a shame you need the stuff so desperately, what with the dysentery outbreak up there. Send a truck down to pick it up or we'll ship it back by Greyhound, whichever you prefer.

I discussed your case with the base psychiatrist yesterday when we met in the sauna. We noted a few of your symptoms—a desire that people call you spud, indecent thoughts while peeling potatoes, an obsession to take over the command of a general who is better than you—and we agreed that you are suffering from a severe case of Idaho menagripis agricolarum (potato blight).

Perhaps a short vacation would be helpful. I could find you guest quarters near the officers' pool. Or perhaps you need something more restful, in which case Florida has many interesting zoos.

Buck, I am not retiring and have no intention to depart from my command without appropriate orders.

Sincerely,
Merk

The letters on these pages were discovered by an investigative reporting team from the Milwaukee Bugle-American that included Charles Dillett, Patrick Downey, Katherine Dubois, Pam Frederbar, Matthew Jackson, David Jungluth, Jane LaMarre, Jim Latus, Jim LeKane, Candace Marten, Janet Maxwell-Ford, Kim Miller, William Peters, Michael Torres and Ed Goodman.

12 October 1977

From: Capt. Blount Hardenfast
Office of Personnel Assignment
General Staff, US Armed Forces
The Pentagon

To: Brig. Gen. R.M.E. Surplus

Re: Yours of 10 October, 1977.

Dear Rauchwell:

I am writing for Army Chief of Personnel Lt. Gen. Champion, who is presently on tour of military installations in the Bahamas.

We have apparently mislaid our records of your transfer to the 4th Infantile and the requisite promotion for that command. Although I have been unable to contact The Champ, I have initiated the appropriate procedures and the necessary orders will be transmitted within the week.

Best wishes,
Captain Blount Hardenfast
for Lt. Gen. Frawley N. Champion

12 October 1977

From: Major Pendleton "Alf" Pendleton
Office of Personnel Assignment
The Pentagon

To: Maj. General Horatio Merkle

Re: Your letter of 10 October, 1977.

Dear Horatio:

I am writing for Lt. Gen. Champion who is presently inspecting NATO installations on the southern coast of France.

We have no idea where General Surplus got the notion of his transfer from. We certainly have no record of it here. I have been unable to contact The Champ, but I am sure there was no intention on his part to retire you from active service. Continue to hold the Fort and we'll have things straightened out in no time.

Best wishes,
Maj. Pendleton "Alf" Pendleton
for Lt. Gen. Frawley N. Champion



13 October 1977

To: Angus U. Merkle, Major General USA
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 14089

From: R.M.E. Surplus III, Brigadier General USA

Subject: Misunderstanding with regards to change of command.

General Merkle:

1. With regards to my letter of 6 October, 1977: Apologies are in order. This command had no, repeat no idea that the Pentagon had not informed your office of its intentions with regards to the forthcoming change of command of the 4th Infantile Division. This was a grave oversight on the part of my command. I trust the premature correspondence has not caused any undue discomfort.

2. In light of the temporary confusion caused by this oversight, I am willing to forego the usual formalities and cancel the welcoming parade, full Honor Guard, etc., for the present time.

3. The welcoming reception is still on. Drop in for a moment before you leave and have a bite to eat. Thank you in advance for donating the caviar and champagne.

See you soon (but not for long)
Buck

15 October 1977

From: Major General Angus U. Merkle

To: Lt. Gen. Frawley N. Champion
Army Chief of Personnel
The Pentagon

Dear Champ:

Received today another abusive collection of megalomaniac ramblings from R.M.E. Surplus, who has apparently gotten sick of freezing his balls off in Idaho. I demand you inform that jerk that the command of the 4th Infantile remains mine. After all, who wants another Fort Centipede?

Look Champ, you're facing a real disaster if you don't act fast. Either buy him off, booze him out of his mind, or shack him up with some semi-pretty broad. If all else fails, assassinate him. But get him off my ass.

Apprehensively,
Merk

(continued)

17 October 1977

From: Lt. Col. Zuckerman Phoebe
Office of Personnel Assignment
General Staff, US Armed Forces
To: Maj. Gen. Hubert Merkle
Re: Your letter of 15 October.

Dear Merkle,
I am writing for Lt. Gen. Champion, who is touring Japanese installations in Taiwan.
I am to report to you that we are unable to fill your request for 30,000 rolls of toilet paper. I see here that you have already received an uncalled for shipment of some 9,000 odd rolls. Did you really think that you could pull one over on Uncle Sam? You ought to be ashamed of yourselves. Did you know that George Washington went entirely without toilet paper at Valley Forge?

I am sure that I speak for Champ as well as myself when I tell you to consider the heroism and valor of Washington and to learn by his example. Think about it.

Sincerely,
Lt. Col. Zuckerman Phoebe

25 October 1977

General Memorandum No. 115-Q12-667305
Attention All Army Units

Has anyone seen Army Chief of Personnel Lt. General Champion? Please have him call his office as soon as possible.

The Pentagon



The Pentagon
11 Nov. 1977

Merkle,
We know you've got The Champ and we want him back. Return him safe in three days or else. Don't mess with us, Merk, cause we're on to you.

A friend at intelligence.

15 November 1977

Dear Abby:

A friend of mine is really in the proverbial pickle. He is presently in command of a chic army base on the Atlantic coast. However, a psychopathic general who commands a rather tacky Northwestern base is threatening to take over my friend's base.

What can he do about this problem without causing an international incident?

My friend is at the end of his rope.

Signed—
A friend

Letters from the Jet Stream...

17 October, 1977

From: R.M.E. Surplus
To: Capt. Blount Hardenfast

Blount,

1. Gratified by yours of Oct. 12. Restored my faith in efficiency of Pentagon. It is men like you supporting men like me that makes this country great.

2. About the Champ's tour of the Bahamas: I was sure I saw him and his wife at the Boise Hilton where I recently addressed the Idaho V.F.W. (Boise chapter). Has he a twin brother? And if so, what's the twin doing with the Champ's wife?

3. Please speak to Ike for me regarding use of Air Force 1 for transfer to Florida Dec. 2.

4. Between us, Blount, I consider the 4th Infantile a mere stepping-stone to greater things and I expect a rapid move to a policy-level position at the Pentagon. Could you arrange for three season tickets to the Senators?

Buck

P.S. Blount, could you check the restrooms there for some T.P. (say 30,000 rolls)?

18 October 1977

From: Joint Chiefs of Staff
To: Brig. Gen. R.M.E. Surplus
Re: Your code-1 message of 17 October.

When sending a code-1 top priority message, please indicate that you are using said code. Our response is as follows:

(BEGIN TOP PRIORITY, CODE 1)

Dear Corndog,

I spoke to Ike about your requests for Air Force 1 and Senators tickets. He instructed me to putt in these golf balls:

Will send Buffalo Bob with the egg salad. Contact Eddie Haskell if Uncle Herman's stretch socks aren't dry by morning, but prevent shrinkage at all costs! You've got acne, so did we, expect reasonably clearer skin in 5 (five) days.

Sincerely,
Maynard G. Krebs

(END TOP PRIORITY, CODE 1)
(DISPOSE OF IN THE USUAL WAY)

19 October 1977

From: Joint Chiefs of Staff
To: Brigadier Gen. R.M.E. Surplus

Screw top priority code-1. Are you really being invaded by Tanzanians? Clarify number of invaders: did you say 16 or 16 battalions? Be of good cheer. The Pentagon is on top of things.

21 October 1977

To: The Hon. Harold Brown
Secretary of Defense
D.O.D. Washington
From: Maj. Gen. Angus Merkle

Mr. Secretary:

I want to inform you that General R.M.E. Surplus III has unauthorized intentions of assuming my command of the 4th Infantile. If he persists, Mr. Secretary, I'm afraid you'll have to terminate him.

His jealousy of my position has short circuited his wiring. He's always been out to get me, ever since I outdid him at West Point. On the day of graduation, he dyed my uniform pink, and ever since he's tried to compensate for his despicable ineptness by conspiring to take my well-earned rewards.

Tell him he can't have my fort. It's mine! All mine! Make him stay where he is, Mr. Secretary. Stop him!

Yours with a Smile,
Maj. Gen. Angus Merkle

25 October 1977

From:
Weston Camscott,
Assistant to Camden Prescott,
Assistant to Preston Truscott,
Assistant to Truston Wescott,
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense, Washington
To: Maj. Gen. Harvey O. Merkle

Dear Maj. Gen. Merkle:

The Department of Defense has long been crusading against unnecessary paperwork. One way of reducing surplus communication is the rigid confining of all routine matters to their appropriate channels.

The Secretary would, no doubt, sympathize with your unit's shortage of toilet paper, had he nothing more important with which to occupy his time. If you want an additional 3,000,000 rolls of toilet paper, refer the matter to the Quartermaster Corps.

Yours truly,
Weston Camscott
for Camden Prescott
for Preston Truscott
for Truston Wescott
for Harold Brown, Secretary of
Defense

1 November 1977

Dear President Carter:

I am deeply distressed about one General R.M.E. Surplus III who is presently in command of the 23rd Unborn Division, Fort Centipede, Idaho. General Surplus has informed me that he plans to take command of my post here at Fort Lauderdale even though the Pentagon never ordered him to do so. General Surplus is nuts. He would not be capable of commanding my base. I have serious doubts as to his ability to command even a hovel like Fort Centipede. In a letter dated yesterday he threatened violent action to take my command. Your intervention would be most welcome.

Respectfully yours,
Angus U. Merkle



12 November 1977

Dear Helmut Merkle,

As the president of the United States I am always pleased to hear from my people, and Helmut Merkle (insert name) I was especially pleased to receive your letter.

I, too, have been deeply concerned about the plight of the baby seal (insert problem); in fact, right now there is a Senate subcommittee working on this very matter. We here at the Capitol hope to have this tragic problem which is of grave national importance cleared up as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your letter.
Peace and love,
Jimmy

Dear "A Friend":

Perhaps your friend could take up lasso tossing or Boy Scout knots.

Abby

28 November 1977

Subject: ultimatum

To: Angus U. Merkle, Senile ex-Major General, USA
Former Commander, 4th Infantile Division
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 14089

From: R.M.E. Surplus III, Major General, USA
Commander, 23rd Unborn Division and 4th Infantile
Division
Fort Centipede, Idaho 88312

Merkhead:

1. With regard to your immature rantings, poor sportsmanship, and futile maneuvers to cling to a position you lost almost a month ago: in our past correspondence, you have been:

- a) smug
- b) obnoxious
- c) immature

2. Try as I might, I cannot remain civil any longer. The command of the 4th Infantile is rightfully mine. Since you have repeatedly resisted my efforts for a smooth and orderly transition, since you refuse to give up champagne brunches and heated swimming pools for the benefit of the 4th Infantile and the good of the country, I am forced to take drastic action.

3. If you don't welcome me as the Commander of the 4th Infantile when I arrive next Wednesday, Angus Merkle, I will reveal your darkest secret. Yes, Angus, I will tell the world that when we were roommates at West Point, *You were a bedwetter!* I'll ruin you, Merkle! I'll destroy your reputation. I will crush your military career and spoil your hopes, dreams and ambitions. I'll make you squirm, Angus. I'll get you for all those years you were always ahead of me, always above me. I'll pay you back for the way you treated me. I'm the boss now, and I'll cook your goose, Merkle! I'll tarnish your reputation. I'll get you, Angus Merkle! Nyah, nyah, nyah.

Your Commanding Officer,
Buck

1 December 1977

Raunchy:

Stop picking on me or I'll get my daddy to beat you up! I'm rubber and you're glue. Whatever you say bounces off me and sticks to you. So there.

Merkle

2 December 1977

Merkhead:

My daddy can lick your daddy any day. Merky is a bedwetter! Merky is a bedwetter! Hah! Hah! Hah!

Surplus

4 December 1977

Dear Mommy,

How are you and Daddy? Fine, I hope, because everything nasty is happening to me here in Florida. Remember that mean, stupid, Raunchy Surplus who hated me in West Point because I was smarter, more popular, and a lot cuter than he was? He's bothering me and I can't make him stop!

Raunchy is trying to take away my command and no one at the Pentagon seems to care! I have tried everything you taught me, including "rubber and glue," but nothing seems to help. Now that naughty general is teasing me and won't stop! Please make him cut it out!

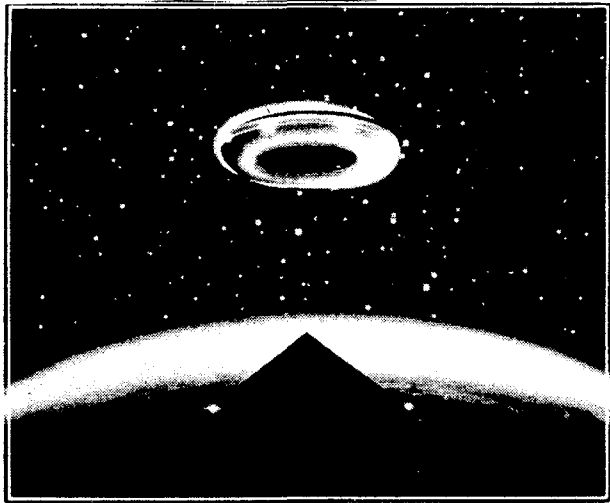
When are you and daddy going to come and visit me? I miss you so much!

Love,
Merky (XXXXOOOO)

APPLE PIE

An American Report

INTERGALACTIC FLASHES



LADBROKE & COMPANY, the London betting house, has reduced the odds on a UFO landing on earth in the next year from 100 to 1 to 40 to 1. UFOs are now less of a long-shot than the Loch Ness Monster.

NASA says it's preparing a special report on UFOs to be submitted to the White House by January 1. A NASA representative insists the agency has no evidence of extraterrestrial space vehicles but adds that "right now, as far as we're concerned, school is out on the UFO question."

HEALTH NOTES

NUTRITION RESEARCHER LON CROSBY says Americans who gobble down two charcoal-grilled steaks in a single week actually take in more tar than the two-pack-a-day smoker. . . . A STUDY OF 78 Vietnam War ex-POWs found them to be in better physical shape than a control group of 78 non-prisoners. The Navy researchers said that the POW diet was "undoubtedly lower in cholesterol and fat than the average American diet." The Navy added that lack of access to alcohol and cigarettes along with prison physical fitness exercises, probably also helped keep the POW's trimmer than their beer-drinking counterparts.

ABOUT THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND people in the DC area have arthritis. The local arthritis association has a free booklet, "Living with Arthritis." Write AAMW, 2424 Penna. Ave. NW, DC 20037 or call 331-7395.

AUSTRALIAN researchers say they have found that wearing copper around the wrists may be a cheap and painless treatment for arthritis and rheumatism.

University of Newcastle chemist Ray Walker says he conducted an experiment with 240 volunteers, all of whom had rheumatism or arthritis.

Walker says that 120 of the volunteers wore real copper bracelets, and 120 wore imitation copper. All of the volunteers, Walker says, thought they had on the real thing.

The chemist reports that after a month of wearing copper bangles, he questioned the 240 subjects to see how their arthritis or rheumatism was.

Doctor Walker says that a significant number of the real copper wearers reported that their condition was greatly improved, while none of the wearers of the fake copper said they felt any better at all.

Walker says that the copper is absorbed through the body's sweat glands.

EATING a banana caused a boy to attack an innocent person. He ate an apple and started a fight. These are examples of allergy reactions which affect behavior. Professor K. E. Moyer of Carnegie-Mellon University "believes that food allergies directly affect the brain, which can trigger aggression." Chocolate, tobacco, wheat, and pollutants have been identified as producing mild irritations or increasingly aggressive reactions.

Hypoglycemia, a low blood sugar disease, and vitamin deficiency have been found to cause depression and irritability sometimes resulting in violent behavior. The Wall Street Journal of 6/2/77 reported that "Various hypoglycemia-associated crimes, including motiveless murders, assaults, sexual offenses and other law violations, have been reported by researchers . . . The effects of food on behavior are being studied at several research centers in the US and Canada."

Barbara Reed, a probation officer in Ohio, requires offenders assigned to her to take tests to determine whether they suffer from low blood sugar. Last year 86, or 82%, of 106 persons tested showed symptoms of hypoglycemia. Those who do are urged or ordered to change to high protein foods, fresh vegetables and fruits in place of starches and sweets. "The change to a highly nutritional diet," she contends, "resulted in a definite change in attitude and appearance" in almost all of her subjects.

Studies at Saskatchewan Penitentiary indicate that a majority of inmates there suffer from some form of vitamin deficiency or low blood sugar, including 70% of those sentenced for serious crimes and 90% of the convicted murderers who were diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenics. If these theories are valid, no one can estimate the number of persons whose criminal behavior was influenced by malnutrition or allergies to certain foods. One wonders, also, how the food served in jails and prisons may aggravate their condition.

— Washington Pretrial Justice Program Newsletter

SHOW BUSINESS

THE Federal Communications Commission is reported to have joined with the Justice Department in an expanding investigation into alleged links between organized crime and the rock concert industry.

The entertainment publication *Variety* says that the investigation, although centered in Chicago, is expanding nationwide — including the cities of Los Angeles, New York and Las Vegas.

The investigation reportedly began after federal investigators learned that a man acting as a "go-between" for Chicago city officials and rock promoters has extensive underworld connections. This unidentified "go-between" was reportedly able to arrange rock concerts at Chicago's Soldier Field despite a ban against concerts there and without having to go through the normal competitive bidding procedures.

Variety reports that suspicious police investigators then photographed one major rock event from a helicopter; counted the customers; and calculated that about \$400,000 in extra tickets had been sold but were unreported to the IRS. They suspect the money was illegally "skimmed" for tax reasons.

The FCC is said to have entered the

case after one Chicago radio station apparently broadcast several hundred commercials for rock concerts without logging or charging money for the spots.

Variety predicts the investigation could turn into what it calls a "sensational case." The publication says: "(Federal) agencies have been feeding names, dates and places into a computer for several months, and a pattern has evolved that involves a few star entertainers, many agents, bookers and promoters, several entertainment unions, and at least two major corporations."

THE Saturday Review reports that art may not only be good for the soul, but for the brain as well.

The review quotes two researchers, Doctors Robert Masters and Jean Houston, as finding that children who are deprived of any art stimulation at early ages could actually suffer from brain damage.

Masters and Houston say that the right side of the human brain is stimulated by artistic endeavors, while the left side leans toward the logical and analytical.

The two researchers warn that children who are taught only to use the left side of their brain — the analytical side — may actually be retarding their brain development.

According to Houston, a child deprived of art stimulation is "cut off from the ways he or she can perceive the world" and, as a result, she says, "The brain is systematically damaged."

Masters and Houston report that such brain damage could result in a child's being less able in later life to grasp abstract concepts in math and science than other children who had been exposed to the arts.

THE New York Post reports that representatives of the three major television networks have been meeting quietly with the audience-rating bureaus to determine why the size of TV audiences suddenly seems to be declining.

Recent Nielsen figures indicate that nighttime viewing is down by three percent since last year, while daytime viewing is down a whopping 10 percent.

ECOCLIPS

WHAT'S BAD ENOUGH FOR A SPIDERWORT IS. . .

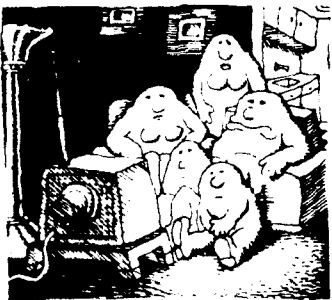
A Japanese scientist claims he has used a tiny flower called the spiderwort to demonstrate that the supposedly "harmless" radiation around nuclear power plants can cause mutations and perhaps even cancer in humans. According to genetics professor Sadaeo Tohikawa, who used the spiderwort because its two-week maturation time, an average of 30% of the plants grown around a medium-sized power station in Japan showed mutations.

COLD WASH POWER

Financial columnist Silvia Porter says that Americans could save enough gas and oil to heat 1.6 million homes if they stopped using hot water to wash their clothes.

WITHER THE AMERICAN SPERM?

A series of medical studies conducted over the last 27 years indicates that — for some unknown reason — the sperm counts of American males are dropping. According to the Wall Street Journal, a 1950 Cornell study of 1000 men found 44% of them with sperm counts of 100 million or more. A similar study 25 years later, by Columbia University discovered that only 24% of the men reached this level. Now, a new study by the University of Texas Medical School, finds only 22% reaching the 100 million mark. Meanwhile, the number of males with what are regarded as low counts has doubled in the past 25 years.



Needless to say, the networks are not widely announcing these figures. The Post reports that network officials are huddling with the rating bureaus, hoping to prove that the surveys are incorrect, and that the viewers are not really tuning out. At stake in the meetings, The Post says, are huge amounts of money in sponsors' revenues. The networks are said to be trying to avoid what has been termed

a "sponsor agencies panic" that could result in the cancellation of millions of dollars worth of TV commercials.

A BLIND psychologist claims he can tell the race of professional football players by carefully listening to the remarks the play-by-play broadcasters make in describing a game.

Doctor Raymond Rainville of the State University of New York says he made word-for-word transcripts of the announcers' descriptions of various black and white players in 12 NFL football games.

He states that a panel of judges read the transcripts, which had been altered only to change the players' true names. According to Rainville, the judges unanimously found that players who turned out to be white were praised while those who were black were criticized.

RECALLED MADISON WISCONSIN judge Archie Simonson of rape "is a normal reaction" fame has got an agent and is planning a book. About the "contemporary climate" of the country.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL PICTURES will distribute "The Private Files of J. Edgar Hoover" after many other distributors turned it down. Producer Larry Cohen says, "They don't want to mess with the FBI." Broderick Crawford will star as "an old man trying to hold onto his job, which is all he has."

ROLLING STONE SAYS THAT CUSTOMS agents in Denmark couldn't identify Iggy Pop with his passport photo because of all the green, lavender, white and blue spray paint over his face and torso. Said one agent as they finally let Pop into Copenhagen: "I hope you have a ticket out of here."

ALTERNATIVE LISTENING

LISTED BELOW are the regular programming schedules of DC's three primary alternative radio stations: WAMU (88+), WPFW (89.3) and WETA (), all on the FM dial. For more detailed information, we recommend you become a subscribing member of each of these fine stations and receive their program guides.

| | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 530AM | | GUITAR, LUTE & MANDOLIN MUSIC(WPFW) |
| 600AM | JAZZ ANTHOLOGY(WAMU) | |
| 700AM | FOLK MUSIC(WAMU) | |
| 730AM | CHILDRENS PROGRAM(WPFW) | |
| 800AM | BLUEGRASS(WAMU) | GOSPEL(WAMU) |
| 930AM | | FOLK MUSIC(WPFW) |
| 1000AM | NEWS RECROADCAST(WPFW) | |
| 1100AM | SPACE WARP(WPFW) | MUSIC FROM GERMANY(WAMU) |
| 1130AM | HOODIE BLUES(WPFW) | PACIFICA ARCHIVES(WPFW) |
| NOON | LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC(WAMU) | |
| 100PM | | SALSA(WPFW) |
| 130PM | | RADIO STORIES(WAMU) |
| 200PM | CARIBBEANA(WPFW) | |
| | BLACK MUSIC/NEWS(WAMU) | NEW ROOT MUSIC SHOW(WAMU) |

| | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--------|---|--|
| 500PM | ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (WAMU & WETA) | ON BLACK FILM or VISUAL ARTS(WPFW) |
| 600PM | WASH WK IN REVIEW(WETA) | WALL STREET WEEK(WETA) |
| | NATIVE AMERICANS(WPFW) | TRADITIONAL JAZZ(WPFW) |
| | OPTIONS IN EDUCATION(WAMU) | BROADWAY MUSIC(WAMU) |
| 630PM | FOLK WEEKEND (WETA) | |
| 700PM | BARBERSHOP MUSIC(WAMU) | CAVALCADE OF AMERICA (WAMU) |
| 730PM | SURVIVAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR THE ARTS(WPFW) | FRONTIER GENTLEMEN(WAMU) |
| 800PM | FORT LARAMIE(WAMU) | JAZZ (WPFW) |
| | JAZZ PLUS(WETA) | 78 RPM RECORDS(WAMU) |
| | DRAMA& LITERATURE(WPFW) | EVENING AT SYMPHONY(WAMU) |
| 830PM | ALL STAR PARADE OF BANDS(WAMU) | RECOLLECTIONS(WAMU) |
| 900PM | JAZZ REVISITED(WAMU) | ESCAPE(WAMU) |
| | JAZZ CALENDAR(WPFW) | PHILLIPS COLLECTION(WETA) |
| 930PM | SOUND,COLOR & MOVEMENT (WAMU) | JAZZ CALENDAR(WPFW) |
| | JAZZ (WPFW) | |
| 1000PM | | BIG BAND MUSIC(WAMU) |
| | | LIVE POETRY READINGS (WPFW) or drama & lit |
| 1100PM | | JAZZ (WPFW) |

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--------|---|--|---|---|---|
| 530AM | JAZZ ANTHOLOGY(WAMU) | | | | |
| 600AM | BILL CERRI (Classical music, news and weather plus live coverage of hearings) (WEATA) | | | | |
| 630AM | BOOKMARK (Ed Merritt reads contemporary and classic works) (WAMU) | | | | |
| | RISE& SHINE(WPFW) | | PHONE/TALK SHOW(WPFW) | AT THE RISK (Morning talk and music) (WPFW) | |
| 700AM | MORNING LINE (News, information & music, interviews and DC area events) (WAMU) | | | | |
| 900AM | MIXED BAG(WPFW) | NEWS REBROADCAST(WPFW) | | | |
| | KALEIDOSCOPE (3 1/2 hour talk service) (WAMU) | (See special segments below) | | | |
| | HOME (WAMU) | | | | |
| 1000AM | TALKING PAPERS (Live readings from assorted newspapers and magazines) (WPFW) | | | | |
| 1030AM | | RANDOM NOTES(WAMU) | NAT TOWN MEETING(WAMU) | PRODUCERS CHOICE(WAMU) | WASH REVIEW OF ARTS(WAMU) |
| 1030AM | I WISH I MAY, I WISH I MIGHT (Chidren programs from the DC Public Schools Radio Project) (WPFW) | | | | |
| 1100AM | | FAMILY COUNSEL(WAMU) | | MIND & BODY(WAMU) | VOICES IN THE WIND(WAMU) |
| | MORNING READING (Dramatic readings from great literatures) (WPFW) | | | | |
| 1130AM | | | CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LEAGUE (alt. weeks) WAMU | POETRY or STAGESTRUCK (Alt weeks) (WAMU) | |
| NOON | CLASSICAL & AFRO-AMERICAN MUSIC(WETA) | OPTIONS(WETA) | CONVERSATIONS AT THE KENNEDY CTR(WETA) | | VOICES IN THE WIND(WETA) |
| | WOMEN IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT(WAMU) | SCIENCE REPORTS(WAMU) | WOMEN IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT(WAMU) | SCIENCE REPORTS(WAMU) | GARDENING FOR EVERYBODY (WAMU) |
| | NOONTIME NOTES(WPFW) | | | | |
| 1230PM | BOOKMARK (Ed Merrit reads contemporary and classic works. WAMU) | | | | |
| 100PM | NOTICIAS A LA UNA: WTOP-TV EYEWITNESS NEWS PRESENTED SIMULATNEOUSLY IN SPANISH (WAMU) | | | | |
| | PM WITH STEVE EMBER (Concert music, musical comedy, British comedy and interviews. WETA) | | | | |
| | FROM THE PACIFICA ARCHIVES(WPFW) | | | | |
| 300PM | GREEN DOLPHIN STREET (Jazz. WPFW) | SOPHIES PARLOR(Womens music. WPFW) | DUETS(WPFW) | JAZZ FOR A THURSDAY AFTERNOON(WPFW) | BRAZILIAN MUSIC (WPFW) |
| 430PM | ALTERNATIVE FUTURES(WAMU) | OVERSEAS MISSION(WAMU) | RANDOM NOTES(WAMU) | AS OTHERS SEE US(WAMU) | |
| 500PM | ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (National Public Radio Report. WAMU and WETA) | | | | |
| 630PM | SHERLOCK HOLMES(WETA) | | | SHERLOCK HOLMES(WETA) | FROM THE EDITORS FILE (Metro area news. WAMU) |
| | | | | | PAULINE FREDERICK(WETA) |
| 700PM | PUBLIC AFFAIRS(WPFW) | THE PEOPLES ENERGY SHOW AFRO-CENTRIC (WPFW) or PUENTES or PUBLIC AFFAIRS | | LABOR ISSUES(WPFW) | WOMENS ISSUES(WPFW) |
| | FRED FISKE (Three hours of interviews and listener call-in from National Public Radio. WAMU) | | | | |
| 730PM | FILM REVIEWS(WPFW) | | | | |
| 800PM | BOSTON POPS(WETA) | PHILA ORCHESTRA(WETA) | BBC MUSIC(WETA) | NY PHILHARMONIC(WETA) | LIB OF CONG. (WETA) |
| | NEWS (Hour-long reports. WPFW) | | | | |
| 900PM | POETRY(WPFW) | LISTENER CALL-IN(WPFW) | GAY ISSUES(WPFW) | SCIENCE FICTION(WPFW) | JAZZ CALENDAR(WPFW) |
| 1000PM | BLUEGRASS (Two hours of bluegrass music. WAMU) | | | | |
| | JAZZ CALENDAR(WPFW) | | | | JAZZ (WPFW) |

flotsam & jetsam

NOW THAT PEOPLE are going to be asking for home computers for Christmas, it's time to give some thought to numbers. Numbers and their siblings, the sciences, are increasingly running the country, yet we continue to act as though language retains the preeminence it had in a pretechnological age. Our government, press and even universities remain largely controlled by a verbal elite that, though outnumbered, holds its ground against the digital onslaught like Afrikaners resisting the aspirations of South African blacks. The manifestations are everywhere. A science major or pre-med in college will find a goodly list of humanities and social science requirements to plow through before becoming a "whole person," but the humanities or government major can become a whole person with only the slightest nod to the sciences. Only in the rarest of cases does a scientist or mathematician successfully enter the political world; the closest we come nationally is an occasional engineer president (two this century) and a scattering of eccentric additions to the House of Representatives. The general press is even more limited in its mathematical or scientific representation. From time to time a poly sci or journalism major will haul out the old textbooks, freshen up and carve out a science beat, but most reporters are numerical illiterates, able only to mimic numbers they are given by their sources, not to understand or question them. The only general publication that shows a healthy regard for numbers on a regular basis is U.S. News & World Report, each issue of which is jammed with numbers. This politically stodgy journal discovered years ago that a single graph is worth a dozen paragraphs and consequently produces an editorial product often far more informative than that of Newsweek, the Time essay and Haynes Johnson combined.

Among the academics, an occasional figure of the non-verbal world will rise to the presidency of a non-scientific college, but on the whole the humanities hegemony remains, holding to the principle that Babbitt and Burke reveal more of God's ways to man than does binary theory.

In the sixth estate, pop society, the numbers people are practically non-existent. Count the times a mathematician, biologist, chemist, astrophysicist or even an economist make it onto the pages of the Star or the Post society sections or into the soft chairs of the TV talk pens. Chances are every other one will be John Kenneth Galbraith, that rare creature equally at home with words and numbers and, further, appreciated for it.

Beyond the institutional obstacles, however, is the fact that most Americans hate math. At least they think they do. How else do you explain the market for a \$2000 machine to balance your checkbook? No expense is too great to avoid having to carry three and add to six.

This antipathy, I believe, stems from a terrible glut of Marine drill instructors mistakenly assigned to the nation's high schools as math teachers when we were growing up. They required inordinate numbers of digital pushups, demanded forced marches through the swamps of long division, and when you fell exhausted on your desk, dragged you up for another ten equations. It doesn't seem quite so bad these days, perhaps because there are more good math teachers around, perhaps because new math brought a more gamelike approach to the subject, but mainly, I suspect, be-

cause children, unlike their parents, now know how important numbers are.

My generation was raised on westerns and private eyes. This generation has been raised on Star Trek and Star Wars. When the Indians headed into the pass, it was totally irrelevant how many of them there were; John Wayne got them anyway. But even the most heroic of star-trekkers must consult a panel of lights, buttons, and displays before making a human judgement. The choice may be, as in the closing moments of Star Wars, to forget the figures and go with the Force, but the choice has to be made.

We are lucky our children have received this training, because the proper melding of technology and human judgement may be the greatest conflict of the world they grow into, and to face it requires not only humanism but technological knowledge. You can't deal with nuclear energy, DNA or simple pollution based on Plato alone, if for no other reason than those who favor technocratic solutions took enough humanities courses to answer the philosophical objections and will sweep aside the humanists unless they can deal with the technological considerations.

In fact, many of the social reformers of the day are heavily into numbers. Ralph Nader started it by finding out more about automobile tires than the manufacturers wanted us to know. Now we have environmentalists who can throw around parts-per-million with the best of them, radical doctors challenging the most sacred of American sciences, maverick economists attacking the "economics of scale," and ordinary activists turning from tilting at windmills to designing them. It may be much more than accident that the remaining core of the movements of the sixties includes such a high percentage of technological radicals.

Actually even those raised to dislike numbers enjoy math when they can find a purpose for it. The typical American has little trouble dealing with earned run averages, point spreads, unit pricing and the mathematical complexities of many table games, for these are numbers that have a goal in life. But love of numbers for their own sake just isn't part of the national tradition. How strange it is for an American to read that in Japan they have a National Statistics Day. This year's theme was "Statistics are the beacon for our happy life." There were almost 30,000 entries for the statistics awards, given for statistic-gathering and graph-drawing. ("Actually," a government statistician told the New York Times, "we had 29,836.") The winning entry came from five seven-year-olds who created a graph titled, "Mom, Play With Us More Often," which was based on interviews with 32 classmates concerning how often their mothers played with them and what the excuses were for not doing so. Other children contestants computed the frequency of family phone usage and correlated the day's temperature with cicada singing.

I would love for us to have National Statistics Day too, because I have always been a fan of numbers. Not complicated, head-scratching numbers with squiggly lines between them or clustered in a formula around an equal sign like onlookers at a car crash, but plain old high school type numbers that go up, down, into and times. I don't like square roots because they don't come out even and exponential curves make me nervous, but the common garden-variety number and its related species, the bar graph and the zig-zag line, have been longtime friends and I have always been puzzled that others don't like them more. Sometimes I think, as a writer, that my feelings for numbers approaches an illicit affair, a mad, secret escapade away from the tedium of my nominal mate, words.

Numbers can be made to lie or obscure but they do not seek these functions the way that words like "fabulous" or "interface" do. Even when they are exaggerated, the limits of their hyperbole is clearly defined while a clever adjective reaches

for infinity. Numbers don't lend themselves to jargon, cruelty, sycophancy, flattery, or cynicism. They can deceive or they can reveal great truths, but they do so without equivocation, and if you are so inclined you can eventually discover which is the case. Numbers are the lines of a hard-edge painting; words the pointillist's illusion.

I am also interested in numbers because I believe they should not be the exclusive property of those who understand them best, anymore than words should be left to those who write for a living. Numbers are too important to be left to the mathematicians and economists.

Yet, while I enjoy doing the bookkeeping for my business, maintaining various charts and graphs for my personal interest and occasionally dropping one of them into the paper, I live in a world of words, largely surrounded by word-mongers.

Prime among these are politicians who, I have finally discovered, suffer from a disability far worse than corruption, immorality or insidious relations with special interest groups. Their most disastrous failing, I now contend, is that they don't know how to count and don't want to learn.

The reason this truth has been obscured is because we have never heard on "Meet the Press" or at a candidate's forum a question such as, "If a car leaves Pittsburgh for Philadelphia at 9 am, traveling at 55 mph, and another car leaves Philadelphia for Pittsburgh at the same time traveling at 45 mph, at what time will they meet on the Pennsylvania Turnpike?" It's too bad; we could have saved ourselves a lot of trouble.

When you get down to it, big government (the kind we're left with) largely has to do with numbers, and mostly those with a dollar sign in front of them. It is one thing to turn your government over to radicals or reactionaries - that is a matter of taste - but to turn it over to a bunch of mathematical morons and ideology gets swept away in numerical chaos. The difference between rhetoric and reality is often a matter of numbers. A simple principle can become highly complex once numbers are applied to it.

Politicians don't like to admit that they have trouble with numbers. The only one to my knowledge who has confessed to mathematical shortcomings is Frank Rizzo, who once said that "I get confused about figures over 100."

Stated bluntly, the admission seems startling. But Rizzo is no different than most of his professional colleagues. I recently watched the DC city council working on the school budget. At issue were millions of dollars, but the council did not really warm to the subject until someone noted that the superintendent had stuck an extra \$100,000 request in the budget at the last minute. This relatively manageable figure brought the council alive in a way that talking about millions never could. It was small enough to count, and presumably if you were careful enough with the hundred grands, the millions would take care of themselves. It's a little like the 6-year-old who was taken to the foot of the Twin Towers by his mother. "Here we are," she said. "Where is it?" asked the boy. It was simply too big to see. Even for someone with a feel for numbers, the problem of visualizing a city budget like Washington's, which has long since passed the billion dollar mark, is staggering. Without such a feel, it is hopeless.

The problem began long ago. Marvin Kitman, in his savagely funny book, "George Washington's Expense Account," memorializes our first president as the father of governmental miscalculation and the originator of such basic principles in expense account writing such as "Be specific on smaller expenditures and vague on the larger ones. Describe in some depth the purchase of a ball of twine, but casually throw in the line, 'Dinner for one army.'" Washington could have been put on a general's

salary, which would have amounted to \$48,000 over an eight year period. Instead, he offered to serve without pay, merely charging expenses. Those expenses amounted to \$449,261.59

At least some of our early politicians learned from experience. When Washington proposed that he assume the presidency on the same basis, Congress decided it would be cheaper to pay him a salary.

Today's politicians seem less educable. For one thing, they think that numbers don't count unless you get caught with them. Politics has become a game of musical chairs. Everyone knows a chair is missing, but everyone also assumes that either the music won't stop while they're still in office or that they'll be able to grab one of the remaining seats. Occasionally it doesn't work, as in the case of poor Abe Beame who happened to be in office when the music stopped. But most politicians have become rather adept in meeting the new demands of politics, which is no longer merely the art of the possible but the art of delaying the inevitable.

The reason these chairs are missing, of course, is that some prior politicians removed them. Many public policies are instituted on the credit system, e.g. you start a pension program now and let someone else worry about how to pay for it later. The number that counts is how many votes the policy will bring you in the next election; it will be somebody else's job to worry about the figures on the bill a few years down the pike.

Politicians also consider numbers to be a form of play dough that you can mold into any shape you desire. If you were the selectman of a small town, everyone would want to know how much you spent for plowing the snow last year, and without too much effort you could tell them. In a large city, however, there is no easy answer to that question, so almost any answer will do. If you want to add to the snow-plowing funds, you can report that "snow-plowing costs have risen at twice the rate of the cost of living," nevermind that the reason for this is that you've added one patronage worker to each snow plow or that you bought twenty new snow plows with a grant from the Federal Snow Plow Assistance Agency, which covered capital costs but not maintenance or operation. If you want to show what a great job of snow-plowing you're doing despite budgetary restraints, you tell people that you've cut the number of full-time workers in the Snow Plow Department by 15, nevermind that the actual number of workers has increased because you didn't count the employees paid for under a federal public works program or the part-time plowers. This is not fantasy. For years the number of workers in the city government has varied by as much as ten thousand, depending upon whether you read the mayor's news releases or the Board of Trade News. They were just counting different people.

Another number politicians abuse is the estimate. To someone interested in the truth, estimates are a risky business. But the validity of estimates is almost totally irrelevant to a politician. The fundamental question is whether the estimate serves what you want to do anyway. There have been many local examples of estimates that have proved egregiously wrong, but which nonetheless were used as a basis for policy: the gross overestimate of area population growth, the underestimate of subway costs and the exaggerations of revenue benefits to accrue from the Bicentennial. All these estimates were proved wrong by time, but by then it was too late. Politicians have learned that, like sportscasters, they can go year after year making faulty predictions and no one will remember.

Another consideration is that politicians not only speak politically, they listen politically as well. Numbers from a source with no clout or from someone from whom you are politically estranged are, in political terms, inaccurate numbers. Two plus two may equal eight or one depending on the source. This is why it is generally impossible to impress a politician with calculations; you need a constituency as well.

Add to this an overabundant dose of plain ignorance and you will discover that the average politician is the person least qualified to deal with big government's big business: numbers.

The press, supposedly the dogged investigator into governmental failings, is unfortunately equally unqualified to question the politician's use of numbers, for it too, neither likes nor understands numbers.

Like politicians, journalists are creatures of words and numerically retarded. Unable to avoid numbers entirely, the press relies heavily on those from official sources and assumes it has thus done its duty. The classic example is the tradition of asking the fire marshall to estimate the crowd for you, despite the fact that there is no evidence that fire marshalls have any more expertise in this matter than a random member of the crowd. But it is an official number, and that's what counts.

I suppose, given the press's difficulties with words, it may be too much of a burden to ask it to deal with numbers, too. But for its own sake, it had better start paying more attention to them. After all, the computer is coming perilously close to the reporter, often no further than the typeball of the newsroom typewriter from whence the immortal words travel through lighted displays, on slivers of tapes and into chips, at incredible speeds without even a millimoment's thought of Peter Zenger or Citizen Kane. Years ago, John Ed Pierce of the Louisville Times Journal said he believed that one day the editorial page could be written by computer. Obviously the task is well within technology's grasp. Now, with the microelements of modern computers, even more difficult forms of writing, say like obituaries, could be taken over by machines and, then, what next? The reporter, perhaps, reduced to a mobile

programmer, punching out cards while covering the beat, feeding the whole story by tone signal to the newsroom, with only a few unpredictable quotes delivered by mouth. And Newsweek will headline: "Where are They Now?" Thoughts."

If we continue to ignore numbers — except to criticize them when they start checking out our groceries at the Giant, they may well become our enemy. The wordy ones among us, will find ourselves cut off at the pass because we will be acting like John Wayne instead of Captain Kirk, and we will have cheated those who read and listen of an important part of their world.

The place to begin, perhaps, is to follow the Japanese and start enjoying numbers more. I had a friend in college who later became a minister. On his second or third time through the required science course, he was asked on an exam to define an atom. He wrote: "An atom is very small. No one has ever seen an atom. Lucretius was the last person to write in an engaging manner about the atom."

Then he was asked to draw a graph of the typical pattern of solar prominences. He responded: "I do not remember that graph, but one I do remember and liked especially was the following. . . "And he drew a sine curve that had given him pleasure.

He flunked, a victim of the chasm between technologist and the humanist. But, intentionally or not, he had neared an important truth: that things like atoms, curves and numbers should offer pleasure as well as purpose. Data without joy is a dangerous thing to set loose in the world.

So as you set up your electronic game of Battleship on Christmas morning remember that they're your numbers, too. How they are used may determine whether they are a 'beacon for our happy life' or the beam that zaps us.

— SAM SMITH

Letters

THANK YOU for your article "DC's War Against Pedestrians" in recent beloved Gazette. You see, it is very alone out here, being pedestrians around town and NOONE hits our situation right on like you do/did. Bless you.

But you are too kind with all the actors:

- It is not just that cars downtown have the right-of-way and two light cycles are required to walk across a street; cars regularly cross intersections on yellow lights, sometimes even beginning their crossing against RED ones, meaning they often would hit a pedestrian crossing in a crosswalk with a WALK (even though it doesn't last long);
- Turning cars off one-way streets downtown do not allow pedestrians to cross on a WALK signal at all.
- Cars regularly exceed the speed limit in heavy traffic and pedestrian conditions and they especially spurt to "make a light"

Therefore, a pedestrian cannot even trust the WALK signal he crosses with. And then there are the number of WALK signals downtown that are burned out; unless there is a special traffic signal system at the intersection, you can figure it out when it is "safe" to cross, maybe. The police observe all these things; I was once crossing with a WALK signal near my home when a turning police van nearly hit me (I was younger then, and jumped out of the way).

And then, you were kind to the District "pedestrian coordinator" — But even one person can set up feedback systems for pedestrians' use in government agencies; press for safe passage and enforcement of laws that would make pedestrians safer; come out against the "campaign against jaywalking" to put it in the proper setting so that reality for the pedestrian in DC would be publicized; public education so pedestrians know their rights (I had no idea there was any kind of speed limit around schools until I read your article; we surely do not have an inkling of that in SE); press for outlawing of one-way streets and other forms of non-verbal communication that the DC government makes to let motorists think the streets are "theirs" ETC. ETC. Sigh.

Walking,
JOAN BOYLE

LIKE MUCH OF THE SIXTIES counterculture you seem to have fallen into a kind of establishment reformism. I guess I'm a diehard but I still hold with the notion that drastic social reorganization is called for. You folks have been away from the streets too long.

A.H.G.
Tampa, Fla.

FREE PARKING

THE Gazette now offers free classifieds for individuals and organizations. Send in your ad of 50 words or less to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009 before the third Tuesday of the month. We reserve the right to shorten ads. Ads will be printed on a space available basis. If you wish you may make up your own ad (please use black ink) 3" wide and 1 1/2" deep.

COMMERCIAL establishments may advertise in this section for 10¢ a word prepaid.

The Women's Art Center, 1821 Que St. NW, has turned itself into a Christmas shop with a variety of women's art and crafts for sale. The center is open Tues-Sun 11am-4pm.

FREE DENTAL CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS: At the Howard School of Dentistry, administered by the Senior Citizens Assembly for Bible Research and Study. Must meet medicaid and food stamp guidelines. Free bus service. 232-1123, 7 am-9 pm.

COMMISSION ON AGING: Meets fourth Wednesday at 10 am, 1325 G NW, 9th floor conference room.

FOLGER IN SIGN LANGUAGE: The Folger Theatre Group has scheduled special performances throughout the season that will be interpreted in sign language. Info: 543-0111.

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Grandma knew the value of conservation and recycling. We need these practices now more than ever. For some modern ideas about how to reduce waste, send for our free booklet, "The Case for Materials Conservation."

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THE VOLUNTEER CLEARINGHOUSE is looking for coaches, case aides, drivers, museum guides, office workers, law interns, tutors and other volunteers. Info: 333-0455.

EMBROIDERY EXHIBIT: At the Art Barn, Rock Creek Park thru Dec. 18. 39 examples of original stitchery.

GAY ALCOHOLIC INFORMATION SERVICE: 332-4960 or 840-9585

SOME PROGRAM FOR POOR ALCOHOLICS: 544-2785 or 544-9508

Courses ranging from management theories to pottery making will once again be offered this winter by the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture. You can get a copy of the catalog by calling 447-4419.

GUIDE TO INDEPENDENT STUDY through correspondence. \$2 from National University Extension Assn, Box 2123, Princeton, NJ 08540.

PETER AND THE WOLF and Dickens' Christmas Carol. St. Marks Dance Co. Dec 16 8 pm, Dec 17 3 pm. \$5 adults; \$1 students, seniors. St. Mark's Church, 3rd & A SE. 543-0063.

MARTIN LUTHER KING LIBRARY EXHIBITS: Cuna Indian Art through Jan 12. Prints and drawings by internationally-known artists thru Jan 30. 901 C NW.

EXHIBITIONS ON AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE and Frank Lloyd Wright at the Dimock Gallery, Lisner Auditorium, Dec 15-Jan 20.

PROSE FICTION WORKSHOP, GWU, led by Susan Shreve. Free. Apply by Jan 10. Info: 676-6180

CORCORAN SCHOOL OF ART STUDENT SALE Dec 9-11. Corcoran Gallery. 11-5.

The DC Cooperative Extension Service provides special training in gardening in return for 50 hours of public service gardening. Info: 282-7400.



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The Folger Library is out with a catalog of all the Shakespeare stuff they sell. From the Library, 201 E. Capitol St., DC 20003, 546-2626.

JOAN RICH: one person show at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies, 10000 NH Ave., Silver Spring, thru Jan. 26. weekdays 9-6, Sun 2-6.

PRISONER SEEKS CORRESPONDENCE: Roger Scott, #1380291, PO Box 57, Marion, Ohio 43302.

DROP-IN-STATION DIRECTOR. Part-time. Should be h.s. grad w/ 2 yrs exp. in recreation, must be able to relate to young adults. Music bkgd pref. Valid drivers lic. Anthony Bowen Branch YWCA, 462-1054.

COOLIDGE HIGH STUDENT seeks part-time work evening and weekends. Gardening, painting, light clerical work. Ronald Boyd. 882-2230.

WARM DECEMBER AFTERNOON sunlight streaming through your window. Messages by Mark Petrillo. Quiet, gentle, kind. Appointments 387-6080 Ext. 14

GURDIEFF: A PRACTICAL PATH FROM CHAOS TO HARMONY: Lecture, Dec. 10 at Immaculata Preparatory School, 4344 Wisc. Ave. NW, 8 pm. \$3.50. 338-7676.

STATEMENT BY THE HOLY SEE ON DISARMAMENT: 8 page reprint, 40¢ from Gamaliel, 1335 N NW, DC 20005.

If you live in NW from Cleveland Park north and have an idea for a project that could be funded by the Neighborhood Planning Councils of the area, they'd like to hear from you by Jan 17. Info: 244-7774.



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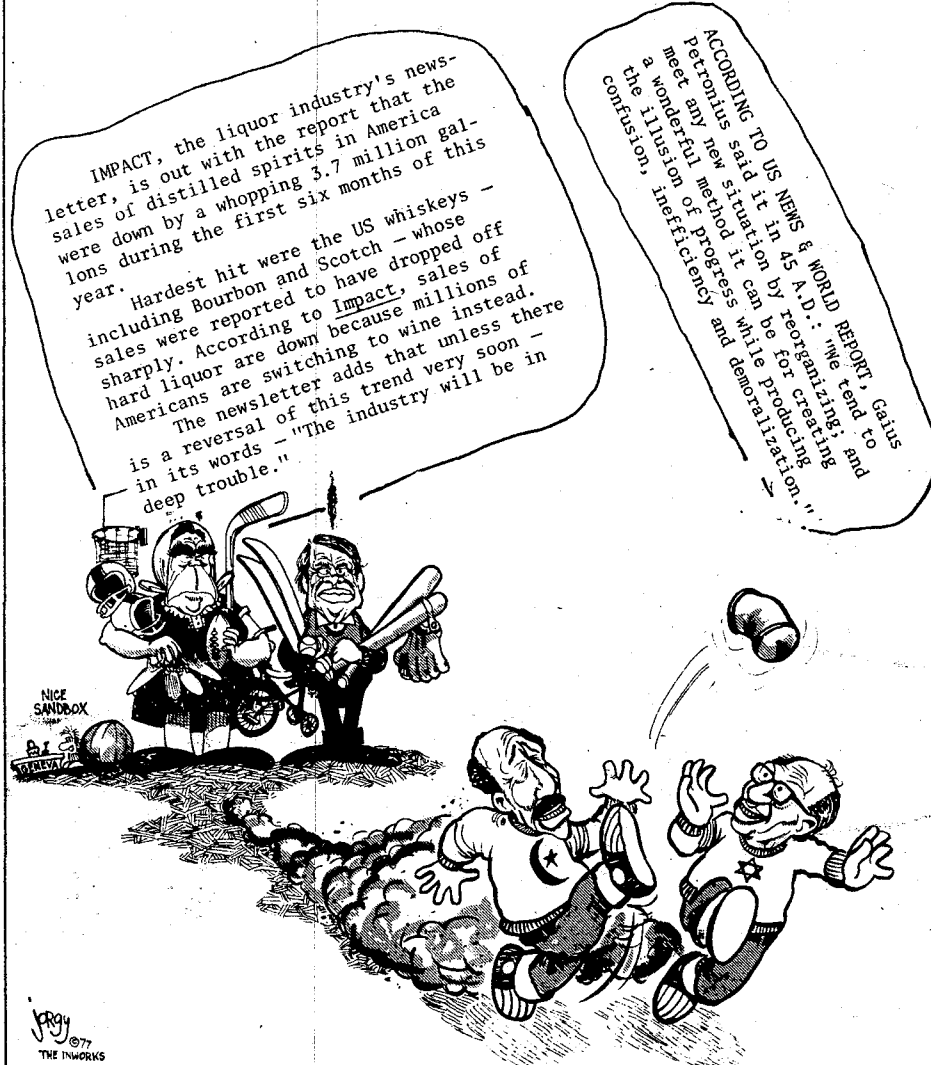
APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE for minority enterprises seeking certification and registration for the sheltered market program established by the Minority Contracting Act of 1976. At the office of the DC Minority Business Opportunity Commission, room 501, 1319 F St. NW, DC 20001. Or call 727-3817.

OPENING FOR VIOLA PLAYER in DC Community Orchestra. Union scale for performances; rehearsals should be donated. Call Jean Harmon, 622-0442.

CAROLING FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL: Find out how your group can sing and raise money for Children's by calling 745-2004.

SPECIAL PUBLIC SESSION OF THE ZONING COMMISSION to discuss amendments to the zoning regulations regarding commercial, special purpose, mixed use and industrial zones as well as the PUD process. These changes would affect all areas, specifically including Dupont, Tenley, Takoma and the Adams Morgan areas. Dec. 15, 10 am in room 11A of the District Building. Info: 629-4426.

p.s.



IMPACT, the liquor industry's newsletter, is out with the report that the sales of distilled spirits in America were down by a whopping 3.7 million gallons during the first six months of this year. Hardest hit were the US whiskeys - including Bourbon and Scotch - whose sales were reported to have dropped off sharply. According to **Impact**, sales of hard liquor are down because millions of Americans are switching to wine instead. The newsletter adds that unless there is a reversal of this trend very soon - in its words - "The industry will be in deep trouble."

ACCORDING TO US NEWS & WORLD REPORT, Gaius Petronius said it in 45 A.D.: "we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing, and a wonderful method it can be for creating confusion, inefficiency and demoralization."

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